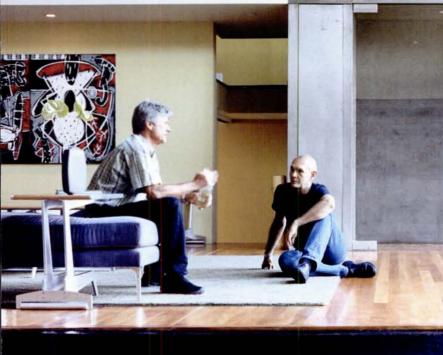
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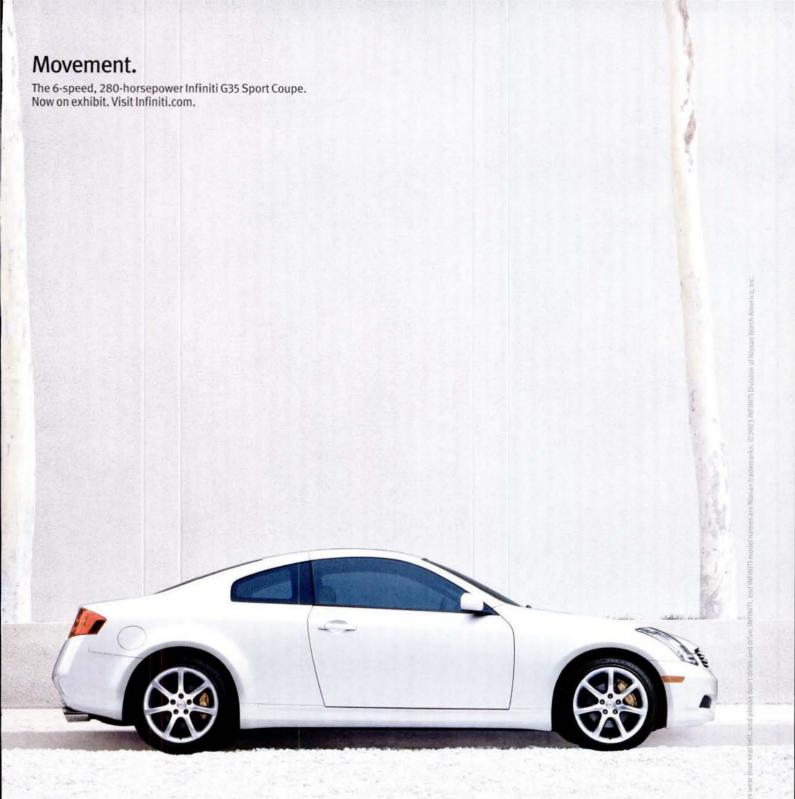
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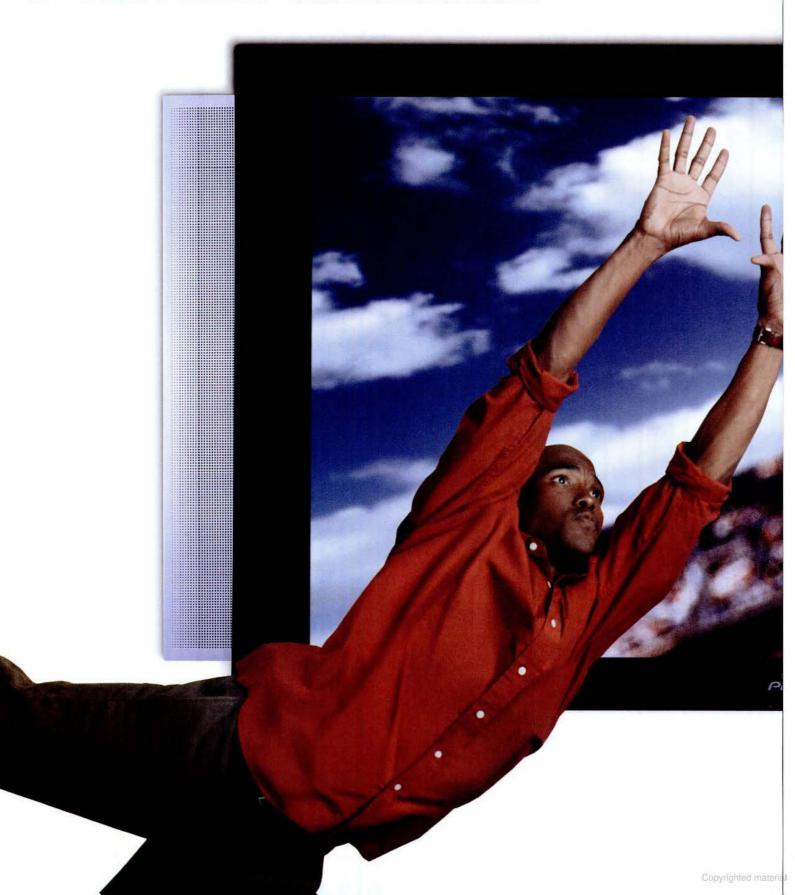
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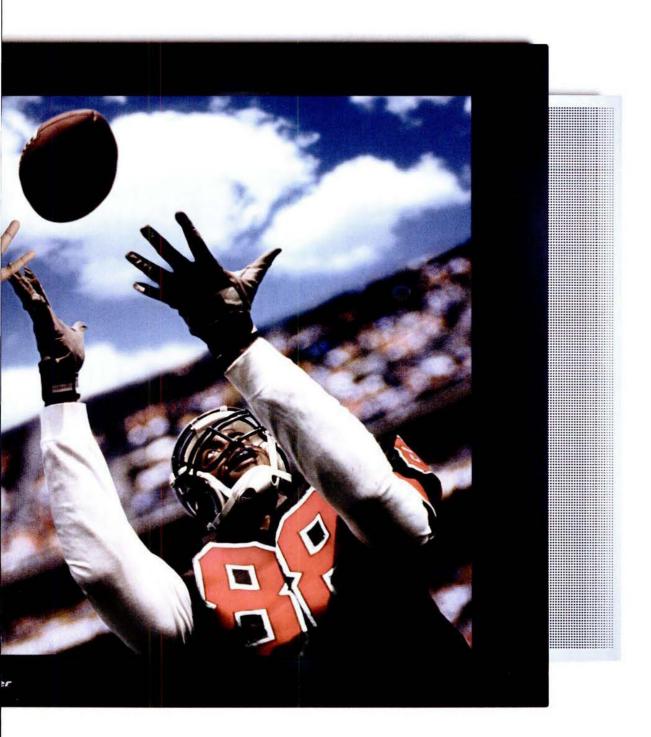






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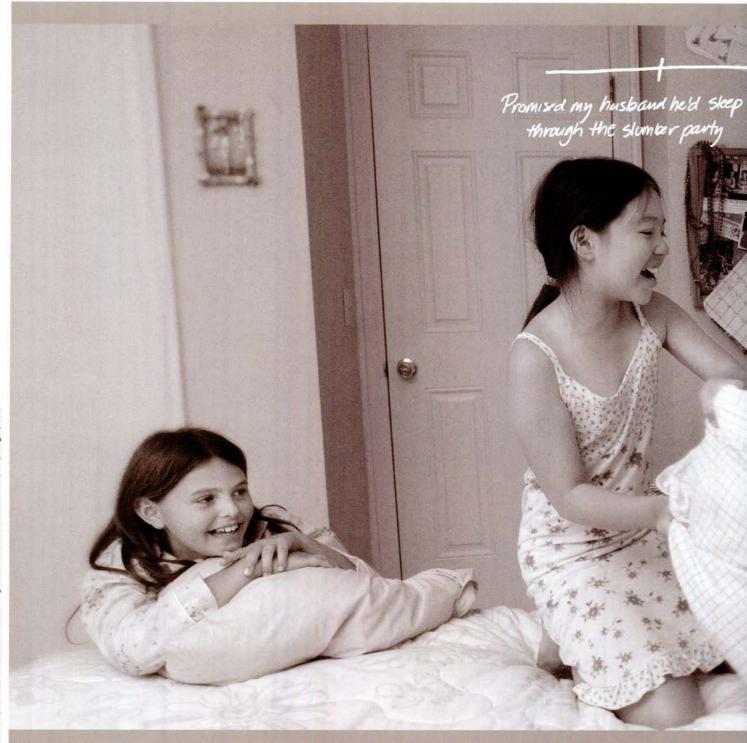
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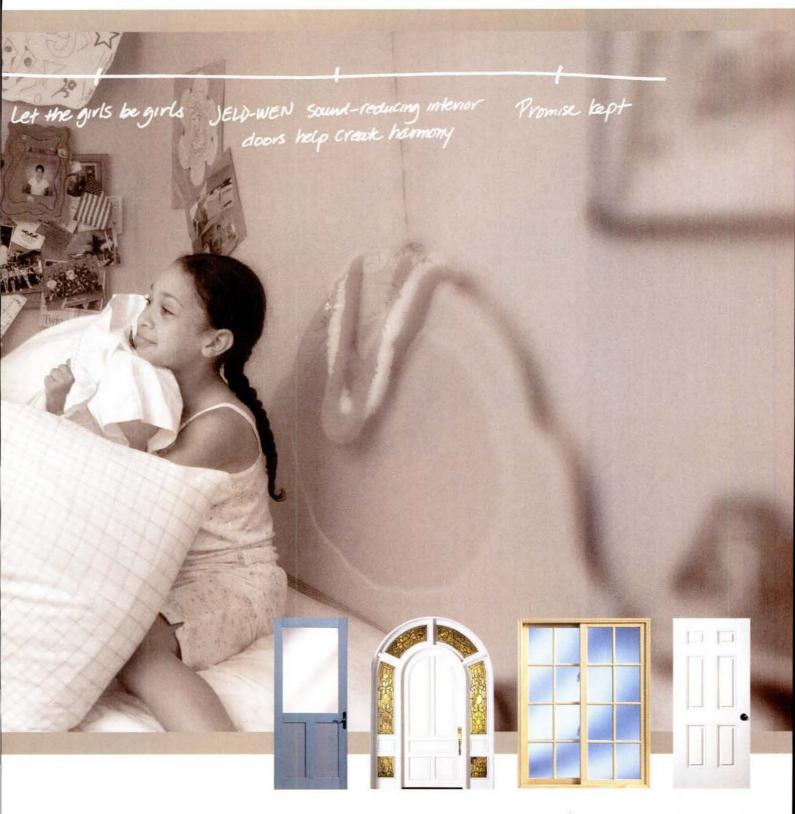
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In his Los Angeles home, designed by architect Jennifer Siegal, Richard Carlson (at left) discusses the future of architecture with the interior designer on the project, David Mocarski. "Some people dream of going to Switzerland for the night," says Carlson. "All I want to do is come here." Photo by Daniel Hennessy

### **Editor's Note**

What can the New York City blackout teach us about technology? Allison Arieff reports from her hotel room in Times Square the night the lights went out on Broadway.



# The Future Meets the Past

Combining 21st-century computer design with centuries-old coppersmithing techniques, one builder envisions a radical update for his geodesic dome.

### **Dwellings**



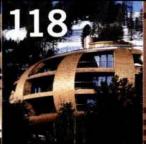
### Technology Is the New Craft

Whether designing a desert retreat or Miesian apartments in the city, architect David Hovey puts his trust in technology. Story by Allison Arieff / Photos by Bill Timmerman, Jim Hedrich, and Jon Miller



### **Junk Rethunk**

Architectural steel is nothing new in the industrial landscape of downtown L.A., but koi ponds and lush gardens are another story. Just check out this urban oasis, tucked beneath the freeway. Story by David A. Greene / Photos by Daniel Hennessey



### Tradition Tempts Technology

In the Swiss Alps, of all places, Foster and Partners have engineered the ultimate low-impact multi-unit dwelling. Iain Aitch explores its eccentric yet überfunctional anatomy. Photos by Nigel Young



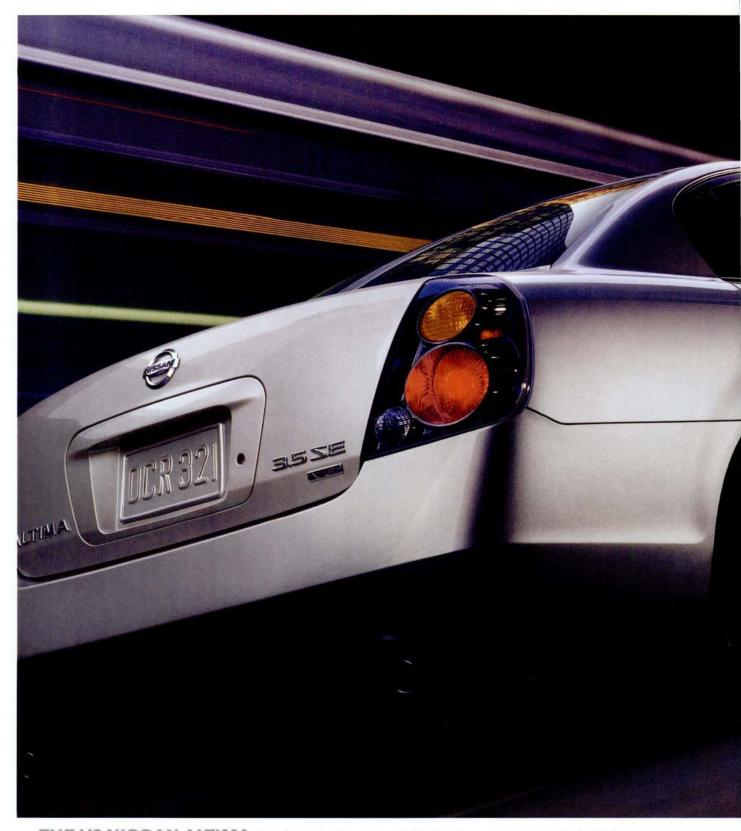
## The Substance of Style

Looks really do matter. In her provocative new book, the futurist and social critic Virginia Postrel argues that there's more to life than functionality. Interview by Allison Arieff / Illustration by Calvin Rambler

# November/December 2003 Contents: Design for the 21st Century

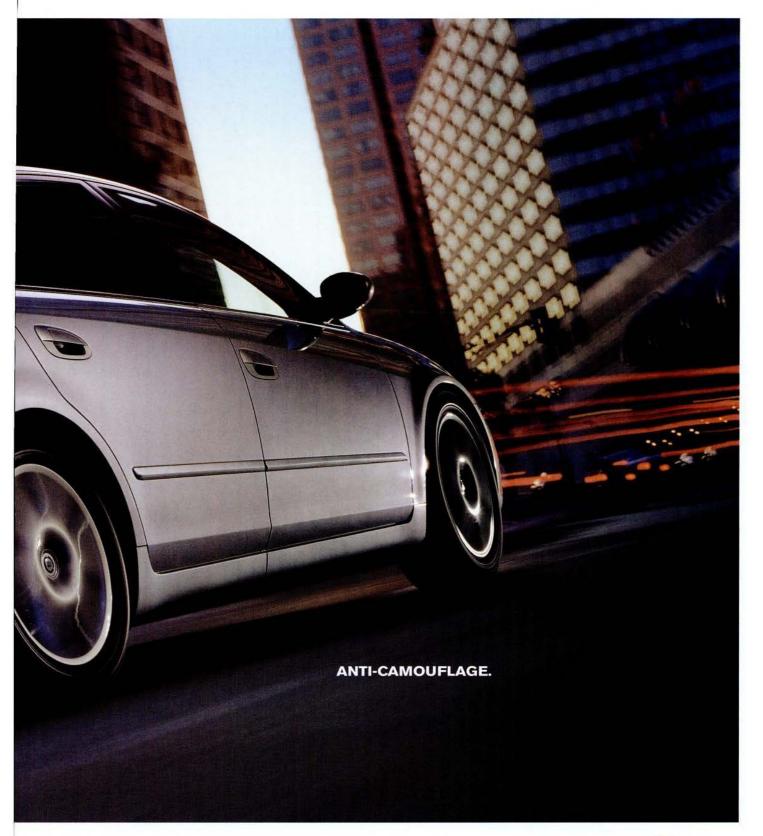
"When—if—the greening of the marketplace intersects with our growing appetite for cool stuff that is also user- and environmentally friendly, then and only then will we get the future we deserve." —Mark Dery, p. 130





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# In the Modern World

Whether you're in Oakland or Singapore, or somewhere in between, these pages should afford you something enriching to see, buy, or, at the very least, snicker about.

When Roberto Silvestri designed a flat for his actor friend in Rome, he took cues from set designers, not to mention his client's artistic temperament.

# Off the Grid

In the oppressive heat of Tucson, Arizona, a modern house that cools itself naturally is especially coolin both senses of the term.

**Dwell Reports** 

When you vegetate in front of a screen, should it be plasma? Dwell explores the latest plasma TVs in depth, with help from Talk Soup comedian Aisha Tyler.



### A Year of Nice Modernists

A furniture maker who is pet-friendly and a great employer. Plus, a tribute to all the good design citizens we've met over the past year.



### What We Saw

Fast cars, slick cars, trick cars, rare cars, race cars, and even an airplane-all were on view at the 53rd annual Concours d'Elegance in Pebble Beach, California.



### Elsewhere

Several new buildings in Graz, Austria, could change architectural history. We catch up with architect Hans Gangoly, who recently completed one of them.



### Holiday Gift Guide

To give is better than to receive? After awhile, anyone fully human will question the question. After examining many of the gifts herein, we know we did.

# Archive

Down to every detail, midcentury Danish design seems frozen in time at the home of late architect Finn Juhl-and that is precisely how he wanted it.

# **Dwell Labs**

For those not blessed with a Silicon Valley-trained techie to wire their domestic world in exchange for Pabst, here's some tips for plugging in and logging on.

# Outside

In Salzburg, Austria, a glass-ceilinged all-weather room allows comfortable viewing of the skies, be they tempestuous or clear.

### The Dwell Home

Remember the other Dwell Home architects and their brilliant designs? These success stories show what can happen when you take a good idea and run with it.

# Innovation 101

What does "innovation" really mean? Mark Dery offers thoughts on the subject. Plus, Q&As and household gizmos that may or may not be truly functional.

### Sourcing

Some ways (sorry, we can't also provide the means) to satisfy any newfound desires for merchandise or the perfect architect to build your tech-savvy home.

### Houses We Love

Here's a tale of romance: When construction took longer than expected, this young couple exchanged vows amidst the sawdust in their future dream house.

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Twain Cinema, St. Louis, Missouri, June 2003

As a longtime devotee of Dwell, I always thrill to your new ideas. The article "The Art of Architecture" (September 2003) just made me cry. You finally hit upon featuring artists who use modern architecture as their medium! This begs for a logical follow-up: Contemporary photographers who use modern architecture as their main subject, modern-day Julius Shulmans and Ezra Stollers, as it were. Beyond the professionals who get paid for shelter magazine shoots, there are many of us out there who do it as a creative expression of our passion and intuitive understanding of modern buildings. There are at least two of us in St. Louis who specialize in this art form (see above)!

**Toby Weiss** 

St. Louis, Missouri

I was pleased to see "The Art of Architecture" in the September issue. While I never fulfilled my passion to become an architect, I found that I still could work with the geometry of architecture through my painting and sculpture. I think Dwell would be surprised by the number of its subscribers that are respected visual artists, and it would be interesting to see more of them on the pages of my favorite magazine.

Patrick Mooney

Sacramento, California

I stumbled upon Dwell a couple of years ago while taking my too-often trip on Interstate 35 in the vast flatness of rural north-central lowa. My husband and I stopped at a small, Kwik-E-Mart sort of store. He stocked up on caffeine and I wandered to the magazine rack situated next to the display of cast-resin Native American statues. There you were: Dwell. I could tell by the cover I had something to read for the next couple of hours. And oh boy, did I. I was amazed. Finally, the exact fit of information and inspiration for my somewhat-out-of-place modern bent. I read you until it got dark and then you landed, as almost everything did, at my feet in a crowd of maps, food wrappers, and anything else I once had in my hands. I meant to keep you but somehow you ▶

# dwell

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# recipe for success

in the kitchen

Whether it is organizing a party or saving tomorrow's meal, success is easy with the right tools. The authors of the soon-to-be released *The Cooking Club Party Cookbook* are telling all of their friends about new **CLAD Press's Seal**, the first sealable wrap. Party planning couldn't be easier.



### Jicama, Black Bean and Corn Salad

- The Cooking Club Party Cookbook

1 cup peeled and diced jicama

1 15 oz can black beans, drained and rinsed

1 cup frozen sweet corn, thawed

1 red pepper, seeded and diced

1 small red onion, finely chopped

1/2 cup chopped flat-leaf parsley

juice from 2 limes (about 4 tbsp)

1 tbsp extra virgin olive oil

1 heaping the cumin

1 heaping thsp chili powder

salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Combine the jicama, corn, pepper, onion and parsley in a large bowl.

In a separate bowl, whisk together the lime juice, olive oil, cumin and chili powder. Add to the salad and mix thoroughly. Season with salt and pepper.

Cover leftovers with Pressin Seal. Store in your LG Refrigerator.



### Letters

### Contributors

London-based contributing editor lain Aitch ("Tradition Tempts Technology," p. 118) had to seek a low-tech solution to a high-tech problem. One leg of the desk housing his iMac collapsed, but he soon found that a copy of Ratpack Confidential stopped the wobbling.

Paul Bennett ("Gangoly's Graz," p. 76) has been writing about architecture and design for the last six years. Two years ago, he and his wife embarked on a very low-tech existence aboard a 38-foot ketch, which they sailed from New York to Italy.

Heather Bradley ("Beyond Pong," p. 136) is a freelance writer and an advertising copywriter for technology clients Hewlett-Packard and Compaq.

Illustrator **Tavis Coburn's** ("The Future We Deserve," p. 130) clients include *Time*, *Rolling* 

Stone, and Ford. His illustrations are all screenprinted, combining old- and new-school techniques.

Mark Dery ("The Future We Deserve," p. 130) is a frequent commentator on the digital age, the visual landscape, and unpopular culture, and the author of Escape Velocity: Cyberculture at the End of the Century and The Pyrotechnic Insanitarium: American Culture on the Brink.

James Fish ("Home Is Where the Network Is," p. 92) has been illustrating since 1991 for such clients as Atlantic Records, Fortune, Ray Gun, Rolling Stone, Seventeen, Surfer, Spin, and YM.

David A. Greene ("Junk Rethunk," p. 108) is our contributing editor in Los Angeles. He is also a producer for *True Hollywood Story* on the E! television network. Daniel Hennessy ("Junk Rethunk," p. 108) is a Los Angeles-based freelance photographer whose clients include Newsweek, GQ, and Spin.

Calvin Rambler's ("Substance of Style," p. 124) illustrations strike a creative balance between subtle delicacy and graphic pop. He lives and works (and sometimes hikes) in Vancouver and is an avid collector of mobiles.

Of her research for "Home Is Where the Network Is," (p. 92) Hope Reeves says, "It was good to finally understand how something I'm so reliant on works."

Photographer Stephen Stickler ("Watch It," p. 54) was executive editor of *Bikini* magazine from 1993 to 1996. Since then, he's been shooting for major record labels, fashion campaigns, and, most recently, for Pepsi.

were lost. I did my best to remember your name but couldn't, and when I visited the local offerings at the stores I couldn't find you and nothing jogged my memory. Then yesterday, there you were again. I was taking my usual glance at the reading material in one of those immense housing-supply stores and immediately I remembered you. I was thrilled. Thanks for being there.

### Constance Moothart

Des Moines, Iowa

I'm glad you mentioned that great architecture is happening all across the country (Editor's Note, September 2003), specifically (and unexpectedly) in the industrial Midwest. In Cleveland, Ohio, we have one of the country's largest and most transformative green building movements, as well as one of the nation's only urban ecovillages (EcoCity Cleveland, www.ecocitycleveland.org). I'd like to invite everyone to come check out our green affordable housing or our historic and green commercial environmental center, all part of a premier green neighborhood renovation right here in the heartland.

Manda M. Gillespie Cleveland, Ohio While I greatly admire your magazine—unique in

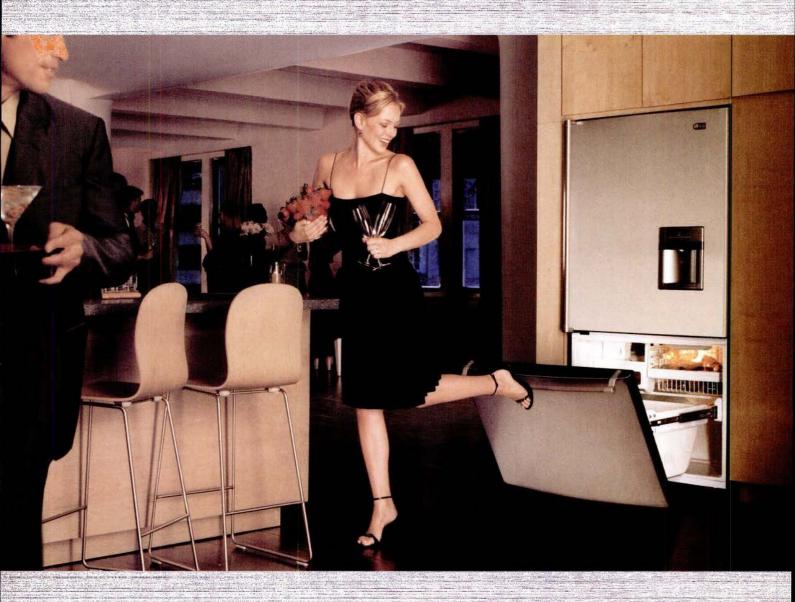
the shelter genre for its literate prose and fearless editorial range—I find myself continually frustrated by your frequent habit of manifesting utter surprise that there should be a built environment of any note outside the East or West Coast. Even as you annually feature modernist architecture in unfashionable places in your annual "There Is Too a There There" issue, the editorial stance displayed throughout the magazine is deeply provincial—and uninformed—with regard to the real history of design innovation in American culture. Hence you tend to reinforce the very geographical and regional snobbery that the magazine seeks to dismantle.

No one would dispute the fact that visionary architecture and design in America began in the Midwest. Just to rattle off the most obvious examples, we have Frank Lloyd Wright in Illinois; Cranbrook in Michigan (home to Eliel Saarinen, the paterfamilias of Euro-American modernism); Mies van der Rohe in Chicago (with his most famous residential building in the nearby, distinctly un-chic Plano, Illinois); Herman Miller in the Dutch-Calvinist heartland. It is only the most blinkered and elitist viewer who would

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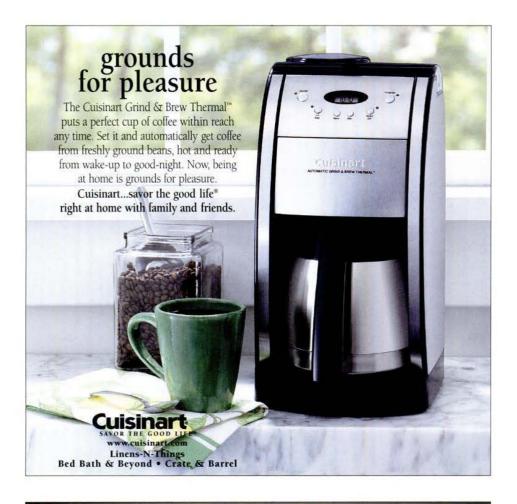
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### Letters

imagine that New York or California led—rather than followed—in the pioneering of America's modernist sensibility. You folks seem far too smart and sensitive to maintain this assumption.

### Michael Trask

New Haven, Connecticut

Editors' Note: You are right—historically, modernism has deep roots in the Midwest. But today, one finds far too many people who think all cultural innovation—architectural or otherwise—comes only from the coasts. It is our aim to remind people of what you have pointed out—that there was, is, and will continue to be creative and influential work coming from all across the country (including the Midwest).

Thank you for coming up with one of the most informative home magazines on the market today. I've always been a fan of modern furniture and architectural designs that are functional for the time we live in. Bravo to the research team, designers, and photographers for putting together a collection of amazing stuff.

### Ricardo Ferrer

Montreal, Quebec

Please give credit where credit is due. In the

September 2003 issue ("(Re)Appropriate Behavior") you show a lamp by Paule Yuille. It sure is cute, but it sure ain't new. Mr. Yuille's so-called hit design shows up prominently in the 1949 film *The Fountainhead* in Howard Roark's living room for the Wynands. It's a little dressier with water plants, but the design, down to the cord, is the same, only bigger. Surely the set designer of the day is dead and really wouldn't mind someone else taking credit for their work. I also wonder what PETA has to say?

### Ann E. Brudno

Kanarraville, Utah

I recently became a subscriber to your magazine

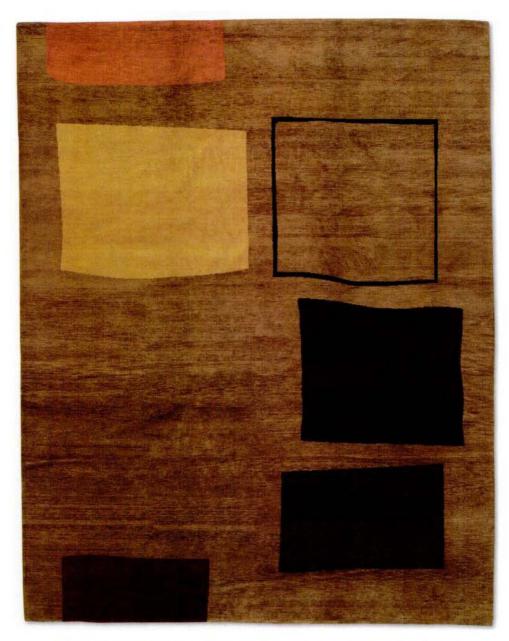
and I have to say I have loved getting every single issue thus far. I especially look forward to your updates on the Dwell Home. I am currently doing research to design a house for myself and my partner and your magazine provides a lot of inspiration. I also wanted to let you know that I appreciate your attention to the environment and promoting sustainability. Keep up the good work!

### Todd Reps

Minneapolis, Minnesota

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### Tech Noir

On Thursday, August 14, I spent the evening peering from the window of my 47th-floor hotel room out onto what is usually the brightest corridor in America, Times Square. It was not pitch-black-major corporations tend to have backup generators for their office towers-but it was just black enough to be eerie and unsettling. I was filled with a low-grade but persistent anxiety spurred on by the fear that suddenly power would be restored and all the lights on Broadway would come on like, well, all the lights on Broadway, and give me a heart attack.

Unlike many of my colleagues who had traveled to New York for the Industrial Design Society of America annual conference and had been forced to sleep not in their hotel rooms at the Marriott but on the sidewalk out front, I was, anxiety aside, safe and comfortable (did I mention the importance of backup generators?) in my room at the W, with a candle, Pringles, and the minibar to tide me over. When all was said and done, the blackout wasn't a tragedy—it was just a major inconvenience. And by Friday afternoon, Midtown shops and restaurants were back to hurling 65-degree air out onto the sidewalks like nothing had happened.

My electricity-free day gave me a lot of time to contemplate technology and our society's oddly contradictory relationship with it. Our culture revels in the wonders of Bluetooth, Tivo, and Advil gelcaps, and we wouldn't dream of getting on an airplane that didn't have the most advanced safety features or work on a laptop that weighed more than a large cantaloupe. But while people demand the newest of the new in their houses today-from highdefinition televisions to talking refrigerators-those homes themselves look the same, and are often built the same way, as they were centuries ago.

I'm no advocate for technology for its own sake. I'll take the Slow Food movement over McGriddles any day of the week. Technology is great when it's working but, as Thoreau once observed, "We do not ride on the railroad; it rides upon us." Technology can engender a dangerous complacency—witness how powerless (literally and figuratively) the eastern chunk of the nation was when the power grid failed on August 14-or even how powerless you feel when your email goes down for 15 minutes.

But I think that people have tended to associate technology so much with the future that they have been

unable to conceive of it as something with the potential for permanence. The truth is though that the very qualities that endear us to traditional buildings are present in such a watered-down form in all those contemporary structures masquerading as historic ones so as to be beside the point. When the spectacular glass-andiron Crystal Palace pavilion was introduced in England at the Great Exhibition of 1851, it proudly displayed all the latest advances in technology and craftsmanship. Why shouldn't buildings do the same today?

Twenty-first-century technologies from prefabrication to CNC modeling allow architects to push the envelope of what architecture can be. Indeed, one could argue that, today, technology is the new craft. A radical notion? Sure. But in centuries prior, then-new inventions made it possible for craftsmen, artisans, and architects to imbue through skill and sensitivity even the most functional entities (lamp, table, pavilion) with emotion and grace. Can we not also realize the extraordinary potential of technology to do the same in our own time?

ALLISON ARIEFF, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF allison@dwellmag.com



What can we learn about technology from the Blackout of 2003? That if we don't imple-

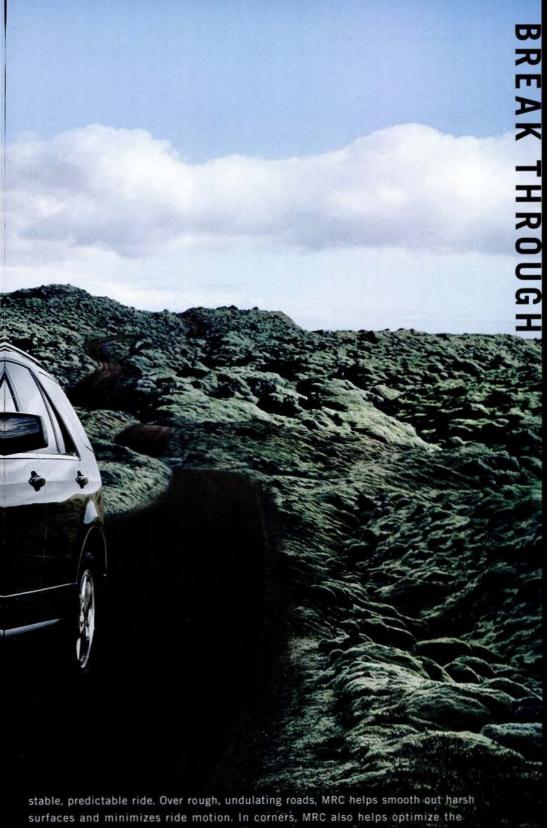
ment it wisely, it always has the potential to be more in control of us than we are of it.



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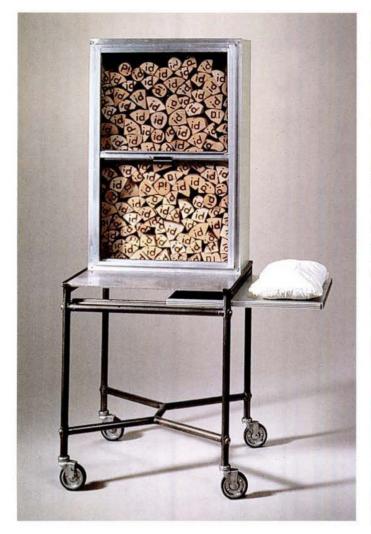


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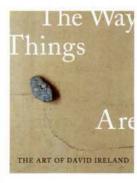


The Art of David Ireland: The Way Things Are / 22 Nov-14 Mar / Oakland Museum of California / www.museumca.org / Two new monographs and a museum retrospective celebrate the work of David Ireland, whose career has been guided by the assertion that "you can't make art by making art."

When media-savvy conceptualists like Jeff Koons and Matthew Barney were still in elementary school, conceptual artist David Ireland was quietly focusing on making artwork with, explains the 73-year-old artist, "a visual presence that makes it seem like part of a usual, everyday situation. . . . I like the feeling that nothing's been designed, that you can't tell where the art stops and starts." This November, the Oakland Museum of California is presenting a retrospective of the self-described post-discipline artist who came late to art-making (after

stints as a carpenter, safari guide, and insurance salesman) but has for the past 30 years created an amazingly introspective—and influential—body of work. Included are installations, sculpture (like Other Id, 1992, top left), and objects, as well as documentation of his own home at 500 Capp Street (above right) in San Francisco, the renovation of which he transformed into an ongoing performance piece, and 65 Capp Street (top right), the Ireland-designed building that, from 1984 to 1988, housed then-emerging artists like Ann Hamilton and Guillermo Gómez-Peña.





PHOTOS BY M. LEE FATHERREE (INTERIOR), HEMRY BOWLES (EXTERIOR), COURTESY COLLECTION OF IRIS & B. GERALD CANTOR CENTER, STANFORD UNIVERSITY (OTHER ID)

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### In the Modern World



### State Street Village / Illinois Institute of Technology / Chicago, IL

At IIT, an austere and tech-savvy new residence hall by architect Helmut Jahn now stands alongside Mies's famous 1940s university buildings. The Mies campus doesn't invite flamboyance, as Jahn understands completely. In designing State Street Village, which will house 367 students, he stuck to a vocabulary of concrete, glass, and steel. Campus-architecture buffs will note the contrast to IIT's East Coast counterpart at MIT, where Steven Holl's Simmons Hall boasts sponge-like porosity and Aalto's 1947 Baker House is nicknamed "the pregnant worm."



# Approach the Future: The Asymptote Experience / 27 Sept-18 Jan / Netherlands Architecture Institute / Rotterdam

A year has passed since Hani Rashid and Lise Anne Couture, a.k.a. Asymptote Architecture, impressed the heck out of Holland with Haarlemmermeer's Hyda-Pier (above). Not far from Schiphol Airport, the project references a jet airliner's wings with its aerodynamic roof, which also cascades water through sheets of glass. This year, Asymptote takes over the NAI with a large-scale exhibition of installations, photography, drawings, and maquettes. www.nai.nl

### Turn Table / By Patty Johnson / Keilhauer

Throughout the 17th century, many
Europeans believed that God used a turning
lathe to create the smooth spherical
shapes of the planets and the Earth. Though
Johnson makes no divine claims for her
table, its concentric circles and ideally
symmetrical surfaces seem so perfect as to
have been infused with a higher power of
their own. Available in cherry, maple, or walnut, the portable piece doubles as a stool
and can be half painted in any of six sprightly
colors. www.keilhauer.com



# The Origin of Things: Sketches, Models, Prototypes / Edited by Thimo te Duits / NAI Publishers / \$35

From the indomitable paper clip to the mucusinspired Airborne Snotty Vases by Marcel Wanders, the design history behind most products is too often forgotten. In this book, however, the creative median between conception and production is revered. Over 30 monumental products are enlightened by stories and images of designers' sketches, handcrafted models, and working prototypes. Here, designers of concept cars and wallpaper are equally honored. www.naipublishers.nl





### Andy Seating / By Paolo Piva / B&B Italia

Architect Paolo Piva is the name behind the clean functionality of North Italian furniture-makers such as B&B and Poliform.

The Andy seating system, first introduced in 2002, now has a corner-fitting unit in two sizes, with a roll cushion (above) for extra lumbar support. Andy's chaise lounges pull out to tidily solve the age-old conundrum of how to fashionably combine sofas and beds. The backrests, in turn, shift back to a 45-degree angle, so when the movie puts you to sleep you can lean back in style. www.bebitalia.it

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### In the Modern World



### Virgil Marti: The Flowers of Romance / 4 Sept-14 Dec / ICA / Philadelphia, PA

When French architect Jules Hardouin-Mansart designed the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles in the late 1600s, he might well have imagined that the owners of neighboring chateaux would rush to imitate Louis XIV's decor. In a tongue-in-cheek twist on European fanaticism for gold leaf and glass, Virgil Marti's installation fills a hall with Mylar mirrors and digitally reproduced flowers. "I took those baroque and rococo influences and filtered them through the 1970s and sci-fi movies," Marti explains. "I want to create an experience that's kind of romantic, but also harsh." The Sun King would be scandalized-or would he be flattered? www.icaphila.org



The Calder folding table, which Grcic designed in 1998, is showing early signs of becoming timeless. Is it something about Grcic's ability to make humble pieces of steel look like über-abstract daisies? The thin legs go to the floor like a sculptor's interpretation of stems, supporting three cream-colored table trays. Calder will fit nicely in a corner, but like any good piece of sculpture, it deserves some space. The trays are different heights, enabling it to stand folded at various angles or stow neatly to clear the room for dancing, www.driade.it



Defying Gravity: Contemporary Art and Flight / 2 Nov-7 Mar / North Carolina Museum of Art / Raleigh, NC / The human achievement of flight is among technology's strangest prizes—for every bit of its physical victory, there's dread. To defy gravity is difficult, after all, and the consequences can be grave. Humanity has known this since the age of myth; think of the melting wings of Icarus and his thwarted ambitions. Here in the 21st century, flight still has its falls, and the fantasy of doing it for free in your own apparatus—real or imaginary—couldn't be a more timely topic for an exhibit, with work by 50-plus artists. "I was interested in unfettering the body from the mechanics of flight," says Rosemary Laing of her dreamy flight research series shown above. www.ncartmuseum.org



### LETTERBOXe / Appart

For those still licking stamps on a regular basis, designer Suzon Ingber has created a refined new home for your snail mail. With a durable metal-and-stainless steel construction, the box is tough enough to thwart off baseball bats—at least more so than its generic sheet-metal predecessors. Its slick flip-out design is reminiscent of a library drop box. The LETTERBOXe comes in black or gray as a small hanging model or a larger freestanding version for people expecting lots of loot from QVC. www.appart.be



Zoomorphic: New Animal Architecture / By Hugh Aldersey-Williams / Harper Design International / \$29.95

With the wealth of animal references that have filled architecture since the Lascaux cave paintings, it's time for an updated record. Whereas we all knew that gargoyles and caryatids were fauna, contemporary abstractions such as Calatrava's Milwaukee Art Museum might take a trained eye to reveal its inner eagle.

Zoomorphic explores overt and subtle animal manifestations in today's built world. www.harpercollins.com





### Waterworks: A Photographic Journey Through New York's Hidden Water System / By Stanley Greenberg / Princeton Architectural Press / \$34.95

Aqueducts, reservoirs, pumping stations, and tunnels provide 1.3 billion gallons of water every day to help slake New York City's unquenchable thirst. Obsessed with the system he came to see as "an underground organism," Greenberg spent ten years slogging his tripod into the moister regions of reservoirs and ducts, taking photos of the city's waterworks. The resulting black-and-white images are a hauntingly beautiful portrait of the system beyond the bathroom faucet. www.papress.com

### Blink Cabinetry / Douglas Homer

Bored with the bland smoothness of laminated cabinet doors, Douglas Homer adds motion to everyday surfaces with Blink. How? The technical explanation is that digital images are embedded onto strips coupled with acrylic lenses. What this really means is that the colors and patterns on the cabinets morph continuously as you move around the room. Handy storage, Blink also provides entertainment. www.douglashomer.com



### Yoshitomo Nara: Nothing Ever Happens / 13 Sept-4 Jan / MOCA / Cleveland, OH

Japanese neo-pop artist Yoshitomo Nara apes the bright coyness of anime with his sculptures, paintings, and sketches. But Nara's imaginary world also conveys darkness. Though he dated himself lamentably when he once described emulating Kurt Cobain for "articulating that generation's scream," Nara's visuals wield irony and grace in this first major U.S. exhibition.





# Samuel Mockbee and the Rural Studio: Community Architecture / 5 Oct-4 Jan / Birmingham Museum of Art / Birmingham, AL

In 1993, architect Samuel Mockbee established the Rural Studio at Auburn University to bring good architecture to the poverty-stricken people of Hale County, Alabama. The Studio's first project was a hay-bale house covered in stucco; since then, almost 20 equally innovative affordable homes and community structures have been built. Personal notebooks, models, and over 100 photographs—plus a carpet-yarn temple and a cardboard theater created by Studio students—provide a fitting tribute to the late visionary. www.artsbma.org



### Photographica Australis / 14 Aug-9 Nov / Singapore Art Museum / Singapore

In the Aussie art world, photographers are emerging as the pithiest interpreters of civilization's relentless growth.

Documenting Victoria's destitute suburban landscapes, Glenn Sloggett finds some unintentionally sick and twisted humor on the window of a pink hearse (above).

Works by 18 photographers are on display in this traveling exhibit, which stops in Singapore this fall. www.acp.au.com



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### In the Modern World



### Pillows / By inhabit

Kaleidoscopic and psychedelic, inhabit's designs are muted-color infusions of sometimes swirling, sometimes geometric shapes. Available in multiple sizes and suitable for beds, couches, or floors, there's even a choice of black-and-white for the color shy. With names like Cayenne, Lime Vapor, and With a Twist, these polyester pillows are the perfectly plumped home accessory for all your cocktail-party guests. www.inhabitliving.com



### Focus Chair / By Eero Aarnio / Adelta

With a vocabulary of bubbles, ponies, tomatoes, and balls, Eero Aarnio creates friendly furniture that clamors to be played with. His new design, the Focus chair, is no exception to his organically and zoomorphically informed repertoire. Available in a variety of colors, the plush padded foam covers a sturdy metal-frame construction. With a profile not unlike Pac-Man's preghost-guzzling grin, the Focus chair opens its arms to gather in the backside of any jovial cocktail drinker, not to mention your average weary yuppie. www.adelta.de



### My Architect / New Yorker Films

When renowned architect Louis Kahn passed away in 1974, he left behind three separate families and a host of unanswered questions. In this documentary, Nathaniel Kahn embarks on a "son's quest to know what his father was like." Visiting the buildings and public spaces his father created, Nathaniel interviews a wide spectrum of people from I. M. Pei and Philip Johnson to a young boy (pictured here in front of Kahn's Parliament Building in Dhaka, Bangladesh) in order to paint a multifaceted portrait of a complicated man. www.myarchitectfilm.com

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### Uneasy Spaces / 26 July–23 Nov / SITE Santa Fe / Santa Fe, NM

Only sissies would be uneasy (let alone queasy) in Space Mountain—and like the Disney ride, Yayoi Kusama's Fireflies on the Water, an assembly of mirrors, Plexiglas, light bulbs, and water (at left), might better be described as breathtaking. But some of the 12 participating artists in this exhibit will deliver bona fide unease: Mathieu Briand's cyberhelmets subject their wearers to "controlled schizophrenia," while Gregor Schneider, who installs haunting replicas of domestic space, will build a claustrophobic garage onsite. Everything on display will boast "interactive possibilities"—really, just more opportunities to develop new spatial hang-ups. But don't we all need a few? www.sitesantafe.org

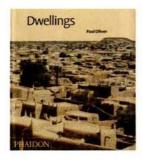
### Morphosis / By Val Warke / Phaidon / \$75

The monumental work of Thom Mayne has long been overdue for a big coffee-table book, and Phaidon is happy to deliver. Rife with techno-savvy, futuristic images and crowded city streets, here you'll find lots of future-is-now visuals. Whether it's the Diamond Ranch High School in Pasadena or the Sun Towers in Seoul, see how Mayne's abstract geometries coalesce with public space. Featuring an essay by Mayne himself, comments by Warke, and a wealth of dynamic photos. www.phaidon.com



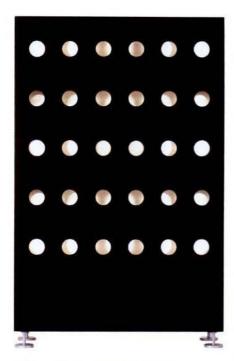
### 365 Thor / By Hannes Wettstein / Cassina

After a hard day riding through the sky and smiting the land with lightning, Viking thunder god Thor would have done well to come home to his namesake chair and kick up his feet with a nice gin and tonic. A tubular steel frame is covered in foam padding and your choice of leather or fabric; the version shown here is covered in black leather and a hairy hide seat. www.cassinausa.com



### **Dwellings: The Vernacular House Worldwide** / By Paul Oliver / Phaidon / \$59.95

Born out of necessity and limited resources, most homes are designed without an architect's input. Defining these types of dwellings as "the architecture of the people and by the people," Oliver explores the cultural aesthetics and construction techniques behind these localized creations, from stilt structures in Malaysia to cave abodes in Spain to yurts in Mongolia. www.phaidon.com



### Moony Cupboard / By Toyo Ito / Horm

Architect Toyo Ito's series for Horm is his first furniture line in 15 years. "Designing furniture," Ito told *La Repubblica* last May, after his Horm line caused a sensation at the Milan Furniture Fair, "I could experiment, and the time was short. I was almost out of step with the fast rhythm." But the artist is too modest. Suffice it to mention that Moony's orderly perforations, made of translucent methacrylate, are lit from within to replicate phases of the moon. www.horm.it

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### La Grande Table / By Xavier Lust / MDF Italia

A structurally sound, 14-foot table of anodized aluminum is no small engineering accomplishment. This luminous table, designed by the Belgian Xavier Lust, took a thousand work hours to find the right way to manufacture. All those hours don't come cheap, but the design pays, most of all when, over a romantic dinner, you rest your hands on the subtly curved, cool-to-the-touch metallic surface. A range of proportional sizes is available. www.mdfitalia.it



### Shin Banraisha / Keio University / Tokyo, Japan

In 1952, architect and designer Isamu Noguchi created Shin Banraisha, an installation at Keio University in Tokyo dedicated to his father, the renowned Japanese poet and teacher. Designed in partnership with architect Yoshiro Taniguchi, the work consisted of a faculty room and a garden—rife with understated shapes that epitomized Noguchi's spare, sculptural style. Despite the space's iconic status and an international rush to preserve the work, we're sorry to see yet another triumph of commerce over art: It was dismantled earlier this year to allow for the law school's expansion.

### Events

Experimenta Design 2003: Bienal De Lisboa

17 Sept-2 Nov Lisbon, Portugal www.experimentadesign.pt

Poetic Justice: The Eighth International Istanbul Biennial

20 Sept-16 Nov Istanbul, Turkey www.istfest.org

AIA Annual Speaker Series

Allison Arieff, Dwell Editor-in-Chief 11 Nov Ausin, Texas www.aiaaustin.org

Dwell Panel: "Can Luxury and Conscience Coexist?"

The Luxury Kitchen and Bath Show New York, New York 21 Nov www.kbdn.net

Art Basel Miami Beach

4–7 Dec www.ArtBasel.com

Palisades Glacier Mountain Hut Competition

Submission deadline 5 Dec www.ced.berkeley.edu/ competitions





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### Mise-en-Cesena

"I used to live in Trastevere," Marcello Cesena says with a hint of nostalgia. "It's like the SoHo of Rome. It was fun, but there's so much chaos there, so many parties." Trastevere, which gets its name from the Latin trans Tiberim (across the Tiber River), was Rome's working-class district for centuries; in the 1970s, its narrow medieval streets became a trendy neighborhood for artists and intellectuals. Today, it buzzes with fancy bars and zigzagging Vespas.

In 1999, Cesena had had enough of Trastevere and wanted a quiet apartment, equipped for his work as a filmmaker. "My new neighborhood around Piazza Navona is very protected," he explains. "Streets are closed to cars. The only stores are antique shops and everything closes early. There's a beautiful silence but for the church bells on Sunday mornings, and the occasional sound of someone washing dishes in a nearby cantina."

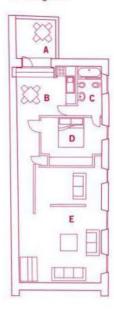
Cityscapes around Piazza Navona are like teleports back to the Baroque era, when Giovanni Lorenzo Bernini and Francesco Borromini, Rome's great 17th-century architects, rivaled one another with public commissions. Narrow streets wind into oblong piazzas where swooping curves are sculpted on every façade, and giant marble pagan gods are indolently naked in a central fountain.

"My life isn't about spending eight hours a day in the office and then coming home to forget," Cesena continues. "My work and my life are united, so I wanted a house for both—an ambidextrous house." He found and purchased a top-floor flat in a 17th-century building, a few steps from Piazza Navona. The property was beautiful, but damaged by indoor fires from former residents. He commissioned Roberto Silvestri, a Genovese architect, to fix up the interior. Silvestri was already a friend, having designed Cesena's house in Genoa a decade or so earlier.

Moody effects through the panel doors in the open living area come partly from the acid-treated glass, which blurs the images behind it and has a velvetlike surface. A Cor-ten wall, between the two doors, shares the same texture.



- A / Patio
- B / Kitchen
- C / Bathroom
- D / Bedroom
- E / Living Area



"When you design a house for someone, it's best to really know him and his way of living," says Silvestri, who describes Cesena as a man of many moods. "He is theatrical, so we drew up a kind of scenography, with interesting backdrops, such as the Cor-ten steel wall coverings and the translucent sliding screens. Different rooms have different moods that complement Marcello's personality."

With its collection of clean but variously textured walls, the house is a visual study of backdrops—in this sense most of all, Silvestri's design is akin to a stage set. Exposed bricks are interspersed with off-white drywall. The sliding screens transmit grainy light and blurred shapes from one room to the next. The Cor-ten, a steel alloy that slowly oxidizes to a shade between dull brown and purple, creates, in Cesena's words, "an unbelievably strange effect, because it looks like wood or velvet, but it's actually metal." The colors of the backdrops transform the mood from surface to surface. One senses a stark contrast, for instance, between the bathroom's white-tiled surfaces and crimson marble floor.

At the core of the apartment is a room that can be sealed off for complete darkness, with a plasma screen for Cesena to watch and edit movies. Though Silvestri is careful to build visual distinctions between rooms—"I want people in a house to recognize every room by name," he says—the plan is still somewhat open. "The big and open layout," says Cesena, "is especially useful when colleagues come over for meetings or to collaborate on a project."

Silvestri's design balances austerity with warmth. "The style right now is a super-minimalism that I'm not crazy >

"He is theatrical," architect Roberto Silvestri says of his client, "so we drew up a kind of scenography."



The kitchen (top) opens to a little patio (above), where Cesena keeps a few plants. The black kitchen unit is from Alno. Red Vico Magistretti Maui chairs surround a white Eero Saarinen Tulip table. Out on the patio, a dramatic cantilever overhang juxtaposes the surrounding terra-cotta rooftops. **9** p.150



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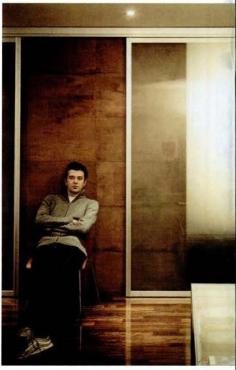
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about," Cesena explains. "Everyone's appropriating it, IKEA manufactures it. It's beginning to seem too easy. Of course, I wanted something empty in some senses. I like voids, not busy walls, because it's easier to work and create things when you have some space, so I asked for a linear, graphic house, but not a minimalist one."

"So many houses you see in magazines seem on a mission to manage with fewer things," Silvestri corroborates. "The problem is that when people try to live there, they are discontent. Think of Edith Farnsworth, who ended up moving to a villa in Tuscany. I followed a geometry to make something very precise, but not too perfect. A house is still a house. You don't have to take everything away, and a little bit of imprecision is important."

Cesena's apartment suits its setting as much as it does his life and work. The Piazza Navona area is among the city's most carefully zoned historic districts, and Cesena had no interest in altering the exterior. "It is worth every concession to preserve a district as pretty as this one," he says, "and I love the way the interior contrasts with the 17th-century shell." Silvestri, who has also worked in preservation, is intimately familiar with older Italian aesthetics. He knew how to create a moody flamboyance that abstractly echoes the neighborhood streets. For Cesena, the new apartment represents an exciting phase of life: the period of self-realization that many want and few are so lucky to find, when work and play begin to seem mutually inclusive.





### Make My House Your House

### **Bathroom tiles**

In Cesena's bathroom, the luxurious red marble floor is offset with bright white tiles that Cesena discovered while riding public transit. "Paris has the world's most romantic Metro, and I was in love with it," he explains, "so I asked Roberto to use the same tiles for my bathroom that they have in the stations. We searched the Internet and found out they're actually made in Italy—ah well, we bought them anyway. I like the visual game between the white tiles and the blood-red marble. It's bizarre and pretty." www.etruriadesign.com

### Translucent panel doors

Words don't do justice to these room dividers (above right), which blur images while allowing light to pass into a room. They are particularly useful in long, rectangular flats like Cesena's, to maximize the use of outdoor light and to separate a room without the sensation of blocking it off. These frosted panels came from Tre-P & Tre-Più, a Como- and Milan-based furniture company. www.trep-trepiu.com

### Walls of Cor-ten

Silvestri and Richard Serra are right: The more Cor-ten oxidizes, the prettier it gets. The steel is frequently seen on exterior façades, because it's extremely resistant to erosion, but Silvestri brought it indoors. "I was a little unsure about covering those two walls with Cor-ten," he says. "I was wondering if the oxidized metal would look too cold. But it has the opposite effect. That was a discovery." For info on Cor-ten, see www.ussconstruction.com/metal/metal/corten.shtml.

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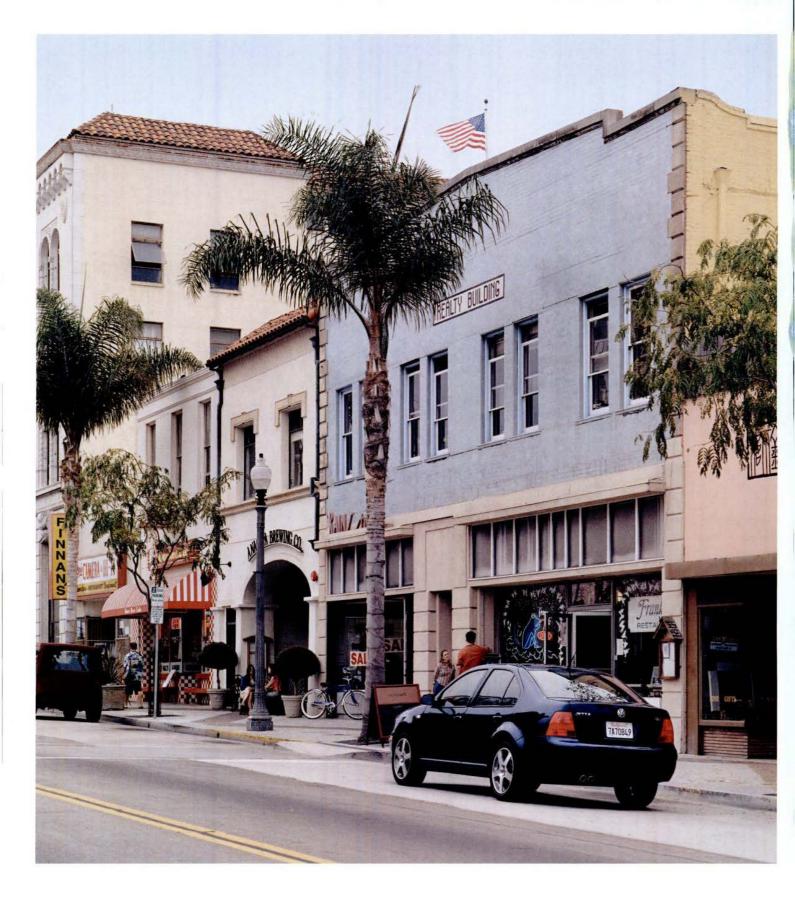


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### **Greening Arizona**

"Sustainable features added a little to the overall cost, but it just makes sense in this climate," says Paulus. Below: Cantilevered stairs of Baltic birch mounted on steel fins, and evidence of the bachelor in residence. Asked by a bachelor friend to build "something contemporary," Tucson, Arizona, architect Rob Paulus thought about the kind of place that the ultimate bachelor—a certain British Secret Service agent—would want to live in. "I'm a big fan of James Bond and the high-tech stuff," says Paulus. "But Greg's not a rich guy, so the goal was to get as much cool stuff as possible for the money. This is 007 on a budget ... 006.5," he says with a laugh.

So for his client and friend Greg Puhler, Paulus designed a loft, the quintessential man-about-town quarters. Inspired by a 1950s storefront, the façade of this 1,600-square-foot house is floor-to-ceiling glass.

In cities like New York and Los Angeles, lofts have come to symbolize urban (and urbane) living. Here in the Arizona desert, the sleek pad ratchets up its industrial appeal by throwing sustainability into the mix. The house is passive solar in plan and section and it captures all rainwater from the roof in a sculptural steel pipe gutter that then spills into the courtyard, providing much-needed moisture for desert trees and wildflowers.

"Typically, green homes in Tucson are in the middle of nowhere and require large amounts of fossil fuel just to get to," explains Paulus. "This house is different in that it is located in the center of town and seeks to marry sustainable features with modern design in an established community. In this sense, it rejects the historic and stylistic character of the neighborhood and forms a building concept more in tune with the desert."

The design defers in other ways to the environment, where the sun shines 310 days a year and big glass windows can turn a house into a solar cooker. Shielding the glass to the south is a 16-foot overhang. A cloth-paneled canopy keeps the sun out in the summer but allows the lower rays of the winter sun in. The east and west walls are made from well-insulated Integra concrete block, which constitutes "the best low-budget masonry system," says Paulus. A few horizontal slit windows provide visual contrast to the tall glass walls, while minimizing heat gain. In the spring and fall, Puhler cools the house naturally just by opening the sliding glass doors.

Puhler had spent two years looking for an infill lot for this simple box, partly for the convenience of living in ▶











"So often it seems anything that is at all green ends up looking like some drunk cousins put it together," says Rob Paulus. town but also to avoid dealing with the design review board of a suburban housing development. "My parents live in one, and they have to get permission to paint their gate a different color," he says.

The location of the 50-by-132.5-foot lot was such that setbacks and future right-of-way had to be considered. Once those were factored in, it would have allowed only a two-foot-wide house, and it also had a busy four-lane road bordering it. It's no wonder the lot had remained vacant for years and was jokingly referred to as a bus stop. Paulus had to apply for variances with the city of Tucson, which granted them and eased the setback issue. The resulting width of the house is 18 feet and 11 inches.

To create some privacy, Paulus sunk the building two feet below ground level and put in a walled court-yard. "We wanted to temper the sound a bit, but we didn't want the wall outside to be overbearing," he says. From the street, the wall is only six feet high. But inside, the eight feet of wall creates a sense of seclusion. It's a technique that Paulus got from modernist architect Paul Rudolph, who was fond of changing levels in his designs. "This house couldn't have a crazy floor plan, so changing things vertically helps create a sense of drama," he explains.

Bachelor-pad references aside, the space has been designed so that later it can be reconfigured into a more conventional three-bedroom home, for resale purposes—or for a larger household. But the only changes Puhler is planning on now are to get a proper catchment tank for rainwater, and possibly some spiffier duds. "I probably need to get new clothes to match the house," he jokes.

Above: Chartreuse walls punch up the gray masonry walls and concrete floor. The kitchen countertop is plastic laminate; the range and refrigerator are by GE Monogram. The black leather chaise longue is by Le Corbusier. 
p.150



### This Garden Rocks

The minimalist garden in the courtyard fits the architecture, but also the desert climate and the client's carefree lifestyle. "We assumed that Greg wouldn't want to take care of stuff," says Paulus, "so we went with the rocks."

Inside Puhler's courtyard, a raised gravel deck creates a Zen garden effect. Next to the deck is a moat of boulders (at left); when it rains, water flows from the rooftop pipe into the moat. There has been enough water for desert wildflowers, which bloom among the boulders. A native mesquite tree, selected for its fast growth and shading properties, also lives in the courtyard.

Originally, the distinctive rocks had come

from the Tucson Mountains just west of town, a range known for its beautiful, multicolored, and sharp-edged rock. They were reclaimed from a job site that had required a lot of digging and would have ended up being dumped somewhere, but, as Paulus explains, "we were fortunate to get it from our contractor, have it delivered for free, and then use it to great effect as the feature of the landscape. In some ways, it put the ruggedness and texture of the desert back into the city."

Puhler, who tends his rugged landscape with a watering can during the hot summer, concurs. "It's just a really peaceful and relaxing place." —L.L.





# If there is one invention that succinctly encapsulates the brilliance and utter stupidity of modern man, it would undoubtedly be the television. Could Eugene

would undoubtedly be the television. Could Eugene Goldstein, who coined the term "cathode ray" in 1876 and whose work with electrical phenomena in gases helped pave the way for the cathode ray tube television set, ever have imagined the horrors to which his good work would be subjected—and the horrors to which it would subject others?

While TVs have their merit—global interconnectivity, effortless and instant access to information, movies in the comfort of your own home, *The Simpsons*—they also have more than their share of ill effects. Television is blamed for America's rising obesity rate, children's evershortening attention spans, and, most disturbing, our increasingly dulled emotional response to violence.

According to the TV-Turnoff Network, an anti-television advocacy group, in average-land, the average child spends more time in a year watching TV (1,023 hours) than in school (900 hours). That's why the group is sponsoring the tenth annual TV-Turnoff Week from April 19 to 25. Maybe folks will pack up the remote controls and have actual conversations.

The good news is that thanks to the biggest technological innovation in televisions since color—plasma— a turned-off set has never looked better (unless you're lucky enough to have an old orange plastic ball-shaped one from the 1960s). The other good news is that when you turn it back on, as soon as you wake up on April 26, you'll experience a picture of unrivaled clarity and brightness from the gas-filled pixels that make up the super-flat screens.

With the slimmest models of plasma displays checking in at as little as three inches deep, this new breed of TV turns our old sets into domestic dinosaurs. Just ask our expert, actor Aisha Tyler, who spent the money she saved buying a fixer-upper on a behemoth set of her own: "It engulfs one entire wall of the living room. It's like a person—my child." Tyler, who is busy remodeling her 1956 Eichler, says, "There are exposed nails everywhere and the only clean area in the house is in front of the television set. My life is drywall and television." She's looking forward to a new entertainment room with "awful shag carpeting" and a wall-mounted plasma TV. "They're so sexy. It's like having the future in your living room, so who cares what's on!"

# Watch It!

Mom says, "Turn off the TV and go outside." And she's right. But that didn't stop us from checking out the latest array of plasma televisions with bona fide TV addict (and TV star) Aisha Tyler.

### **Dwell Reports**









### Bang & Olufsen BeoVision 5 / \$19,500

Bang & Olufsen's top-of-the-line model has a 42-inch diagonal screen, built-in Dolby Surround decoder, TV tuner, active loud-speakers, and the Beo4—an all-in-one remote that will become the brain of your whole B&O system.

Expert Opinion: Even when it's off, this looks like art. There are no buttons, lights, or logos on the face to distract you when you're watching the director's cut of *The Lord of the Rings*. It has "electronic curtains" that part when you turn it on. This adds no technical

value whatsoever, but damned if I wasn't impressed. It comes in four colors besides silver, so you can coordinate it to each room in your house. Provided, of course, that you are Donald Trump and can afford more than one.

What We Think: Although this TV will cost you a small fortune, Bang & Olufsen offers these encouraging words: "With everything enclosed in a frame of aluminum, it's not difficult to see the link between BeoVision 5 and the world of paintings." Son, you just saved yourself a handful on that Van Gogh.

### Sony KE-42XS910 / \$7,500

The KE-42XS910 features 1,024-by-852pixel resolution, Memory Stick media playback for the technologically savvy Sony devotee, HDTV connection, and a virtual Dolby "twin surround audio system."

Expert Opinion: True to form for Sony, this looks gorgeous: integrated speakers, the little transparent strip at the bottom, and a smooth look. They say it has "twin surround audio," but I don't know how anything can surround you when it's attached to the TV. Often with Sony you are paying a dollar for

the technology and another \$7,499 for them to stick a little "Sony" label on there. But this seems to be an exception.

What We Think: We've definitely experienced the same Sony pricing phenomenon—with three Walkmen, two self-destructing CD changers, and a robotic dog (RIP). Despite our nagging prejudice, we were in fact exceptionally pleased with the KE-42XS910's performance and appearance—although it does look a bit like an extra piece of hardware from *Die Hard*'s Nakatomi Plaza or *Tron*'s Encom headquarters.

### Philips 50FD9955 / \$11,999

Philips's top-of-the-line pick includes an above-average 1,365-by-768-pixel 50-inch diagonal panel. It weighs 101.5 pounds, is a mere 4.3 inches deep, and requires an external tuner and audio system.

Expert Opinion: If I lived in the movie Gattaca, this is the television I would own. Especially because it has this arced, awful stand that seems like what that film's art director would think looked "like the future." It has something called DNM, which stands for Digital Natural Motion. The specs say it

eliminates "motion judder." I have no idea what that is, mainly because I don't think "judder" is a word.

What We Think: Sorry, Aisha, "to judder" is to vibrate with intensity. Perhaps that's what Philips really is getting at when their ads tell us, "It's getting better all the time." Perhaps we have access to an online dictionary. All wordplay aside, this television is really quite nice; however, with a low 400:1 contrast ratio, and no speakers or tuner (making for a complex setup), we're going to think twice before dropping 12 Gs.

### Panasonic TH-42PA20U / \$4,999

Panasonic's wide-screen TH-42PA20U has a 16:9 aspect ratio and 850-by-480-pixel resolution (not HDTV). The television weighs 77.2 pounds (or 51 and a half 24-ounce Coors Lights) and is a mere 3.9 inches deep.

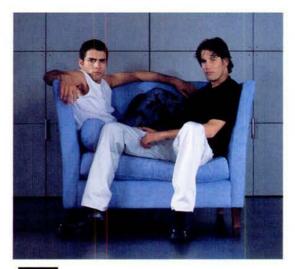
Expert Opinion: This television has something called "AI Picture and Sound," which automatically adjusts color and sound to ensure contrast and prevent you from having an aneurysm when the commercials come blasting on during your favorite nature documentary on cows. Of course, as many

fine films have documented, Al also portends the end of the human race, so buyer beware.

What We Think: We'll admit to this: We own a Panasonic and it treats us well.

That said, when we tested out this 42-inch diagonal model with a built-in NTSC tuner, booming surround sound, and one of the highest contrast ratios around—

3,000:1—we were eminently pleased, and immediately jealous. In a dark enough room, during the opening titles of Get Carter (the one starring Michael Caine, duh), you are the train. ▶





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### **Dwell Reports**



# Citeray





### Hitachi 32HDT50 / \$5,999

Hitachi's 32-inch diagonal model features a 16:9 aspect ratio screen with 1,024-by-852-pixel resolution. It also contains a 14-watt stereo speaker system and arrives with a separate AV control center (to stack somewhere near the DVD player, Tivo, and VCR).

Expert Opinion: This is the smallest of the screens I looked at, and at the price, for size you would probably do better going to Gateway. That said, it is a really good-looking television, and the picture is quite juicy. The remote is a behemoth, though—I expected

some little miniature Blackberry thing that you could hang on your keychain, or maybe something the size of those tiny Japanese pocket monster toys where you have to play with the egg so it doesn't cry or start pouting.

What We Think: The 32HDT50 sure is easy on the eyes. Before we ever gawked and drooled at the shockingly crisp picture, we gawked and drooled at the simple, almost Miesian design. If you're accustomed to sacrificing style for size (ahem), Hitachi's 32HDT50 is definitely the set for you.

### Gateway 46-Inch Plasma / \$3,799

Gateway's 46-inch model features an 852by-480-pixel panel (not HDTV) with an 800:1 contrast ratio, built-in speakers, and an integrated NTSC tuner.

Expert Opinion: This is a workhorse: not particularly beautiful, but insanely cheap for a plasma TV. It isn't high-definition, though—just HDTV-compatible—and the contrast ratio is pretty low, which I would take to mean that the picture is going to be dim and fuzzy. This is a good option if you don't want to spend your kids' college fund

on a boob tube; however, I imagine that if you're that smart, you'd just wait a few years for something with a robot brain that can pick the ponies.

What We Think: We appreciate Gateway the way that one might an Amish barn raising: It's great that they're doing it, but we're just not all that interested. Part of the problem is the typical Silicon Valley design style—we get enough of computers at work. We give Gateway kudos for offering plasma at a price that junior executives can afford, but we're going to hold off for that big promotion.

### Pioneer PDP-4340HD / \$10,500

Pioneer's PDP-4340HD is their penultimateof-the-line model. For the videophiles, it uses 3:3 film-to-video conversion at 72 Hz (as opposed to the totally inferior 3:2/60 Hz standard of many plasma TVs).

Expert Opinion: I remember the days when 12 inches of black-and-white UHF with a set of tinfoil rabbit ears was enough to keep my nose to the screen for six hours every Saturday morning. Nowadays, I hear a TV only has a 43-inch diagonal and I pooh-pooh it like the Sultan of Brunei. It has some cool

features, including Pure Drive, which reduces digital or MPEG noise, which means fewer little funny rectangles popping up right at the most critical moments of *Iron Chef*.

What We Think: We vote Pioneer's PDP-4340HD most likely to turn up on Star Trek. The quality of its display was equally worthy of the 23rd century. The Advanced Continuous Emission Display Technology II was designed to "eliminate false contours that can appear in close-ups of faces." That feature alone probably makes this the favorite of the entertainment industry.

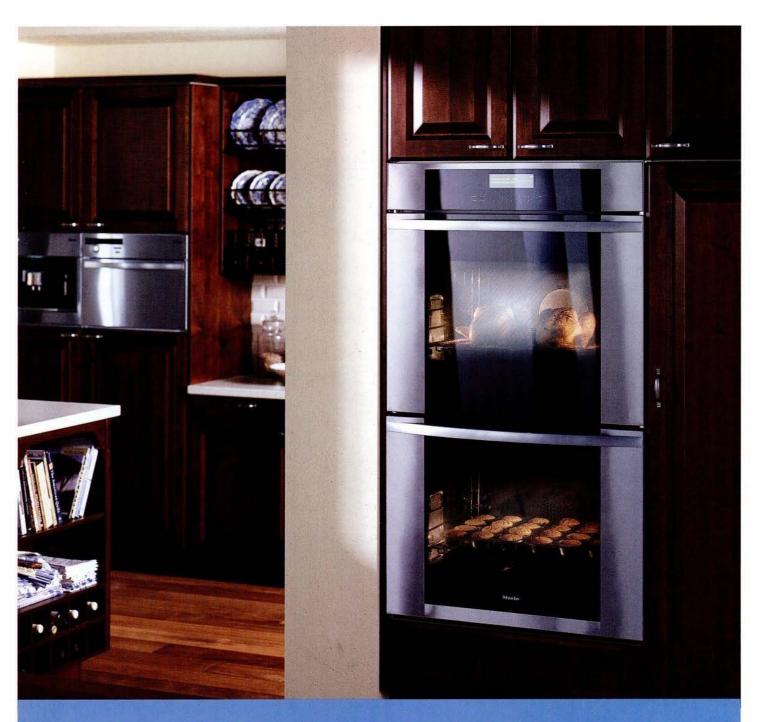
### Fujitsu P50XHA10US / \$10,999

Fujitsu's flagship model features a 1,366-by-768-pixel panel 50-inch diagonal screen with a 16:9 aspect ratio. It requires an external tuner and audio system.

Expert Opinion: The case treatment for this TV is not so great—big logo and buttons. For \$11,000, they should find a way to hide the buttons. Also, the edges are all beveled and seamed—it doesn't look like the future at all. I do like that the specs say that it weighs "a mere 99.2" pounds. I don't know the last time 99.2 pounds was "mere," espe-

cially when you're trying to mount the confounded thing to your living room wall in drywall incapable of supporting a *Matrix* poster.

What We Think: Weighing under 100 pounds with a 3.7-inch profile, on paper this TV could be a long-lost relative of Calista Flockhart. We agree with Tyler about the design—the "newly restyled chassis" could have used a little further restyling. Still, thanks to Fujitsu's AVM (Advanced Video Movement) processor, and a 3,000:1 contrast ratio, the display features crispy deep blacks and a smooth, flickerless image.



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### **2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY**



1968

Directed by: Stanley Kubrick Starring: Keir Dullea, Gary Lockwood, William Sylvester, and Douglas Rain as the voice of HAL

Stanley Kubrick's masterpiece defines the space age on celluloid (note the appearance of Arne Jacobsen's iconic flatware and Olivier Mourgue's *Djinn* chairs and sofas). Even for 1968 the effects are still special—but do you think HAL plays MP3s?

### THE PARTY



1968 Directed by: Blake Edwards Starring: Peter Sellers and Claudine

Longet

Peter Sellers gives *The Simpsons*' Apu a run for his Kwik-E-Mart dollars as Hollywood's most clueless partygoer, Hrundi V. Bakshi. Sit back with the lovely Claudine Longet, and watch the hapless Hrundi bumble his way through an epic evening in a swinging sixties Hollywood pad.

### THE FOUNTAINHEAD



Directed by: King Vidor Starring: Gary Cooper, Patricia Neal and Raymond Massey

The Fountainhead's lead character, architect Howard Roark, would rather destroy his creation than compromise his artistic integrity—a quality no doubt shared by the leading modernists of the time (Frank Lloyd Wright comes to mind). Based on Ayn Rand's novel, this might not be a film for "Nice Modernists," but if you dig visionary set design and Gary Cooper in rolled-up sleeves, it's the flick for you!

### PLAYTIME



Directed by: Jacques Tati Starring: Jacques Tati

In *Playtime*, Jacques Tati turns the inimitable Monsieur Hulot loose on a fictional modernist Paris. A series of increasingly complex sight gags worthy of the Marx Brothers (or Sponge-Bob SquarePants) culminate in an upscale eatery, built with Tati's take on shoddy modern gadgetry and construction, that self-destructs on its opening night.



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### As Good As Gold

Business success without employee satisfaction never made sense to Mitchell Gold, president of the Taylorsville, North Carolina—based furniture company Mitchell Gold Co., known for its urbane twist on homey furniture. "I worked for Bloomingdale's," Gold recounts, "and the president, Marvin Traub, would do such good things for people. At the height of the AIDS epidemic, several employees got sick and he kept them on the payroll till the end. It was very inspiring."

But when Gold moved to North Carolina, he experienced the flip side. "I went to work for a company that did nothing for their employees." As morale sank, Gold observed, so did business fortunes. Gold and his business partner, Bob Williams, were determined to run their company differently.

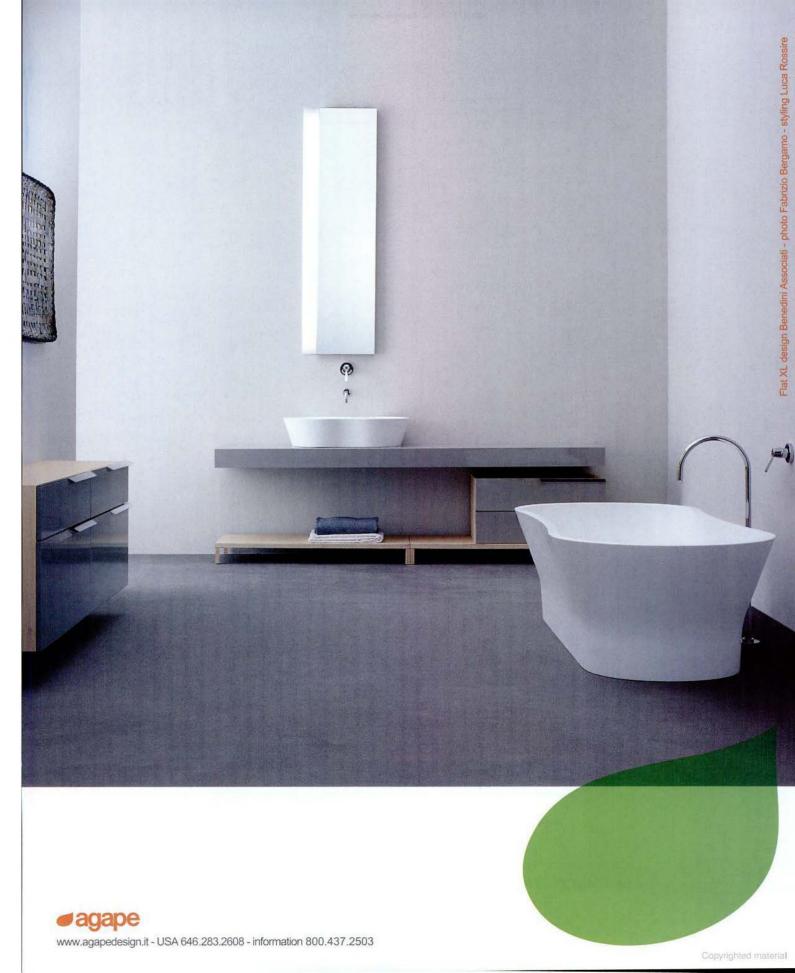
After outgrowing their first factory, the pair set about constructing a new facility equipped with what would seem to be a given in muggy North Carolina—air condi-

tioning. "We didn't think it was a big deal," Gold says.
"But the employees thought it was incredible because virtually no factories had air-conditioning. We thought that was incredible!"

Then came the crown jewel of the company, the onsite day-care center. "We noticed that we would emotionally lose some employees around 4 p.m. because all they'd be thinking about was picking up their kids," Gold says. Thus the day-care center was incorporated into the new factory. Now, for \$75 a week, employees can put their children in good hands in a center just steps away from the workplace.

The day-care center is attracting the attention of politicians eager to learn how a company can provide their employees with such unique services and still remain profitable. "We're proving that things like this make good business sense," Gold says. "Opening the day-care center is the best thing we've ever done."







### Earth Pledge Foundation / January/February 2003

We're sometimes disheartened at the future of the planet when we see outsized Escalades parked in the driveways of suburban mega-mansions. But Earth Pledge is the counterbalance that continues to strive to make our cities green. Most recently, the organization has convened a multiyear study (along with such partners as NASA and the Columbia Earth Institute) to quantify the value of green roofs, and has also created green roofs at four nonprofits throughout New York-including a grandparents' building in the Bronx and a girls' club on the Lower East Side. It's all contributing to Earth Pledge Foundation's plan, says director Leslie Hoffman, "to have New York reimagined as an ecological city."

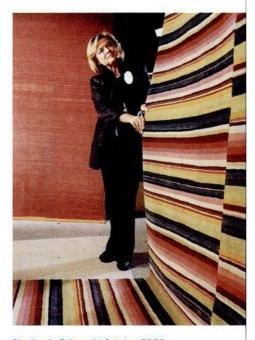
### It Was a Very Nice Year

At Dwell, we're obsessed with showing the modernism of the everyday. In our first issue, the Fruit Bowl Manifesto outlined our philosophy: "We think the connections to society, place, and human experience . . . are exactly what make good architecture great." Accordingly, the Nice Modernist awards were created to recognize people who dedicate their efforts to help make such connections—and who epitomize our founding ideals. We caught up with this year's awardees to see what they've been up to since they last spoke with Dwell.



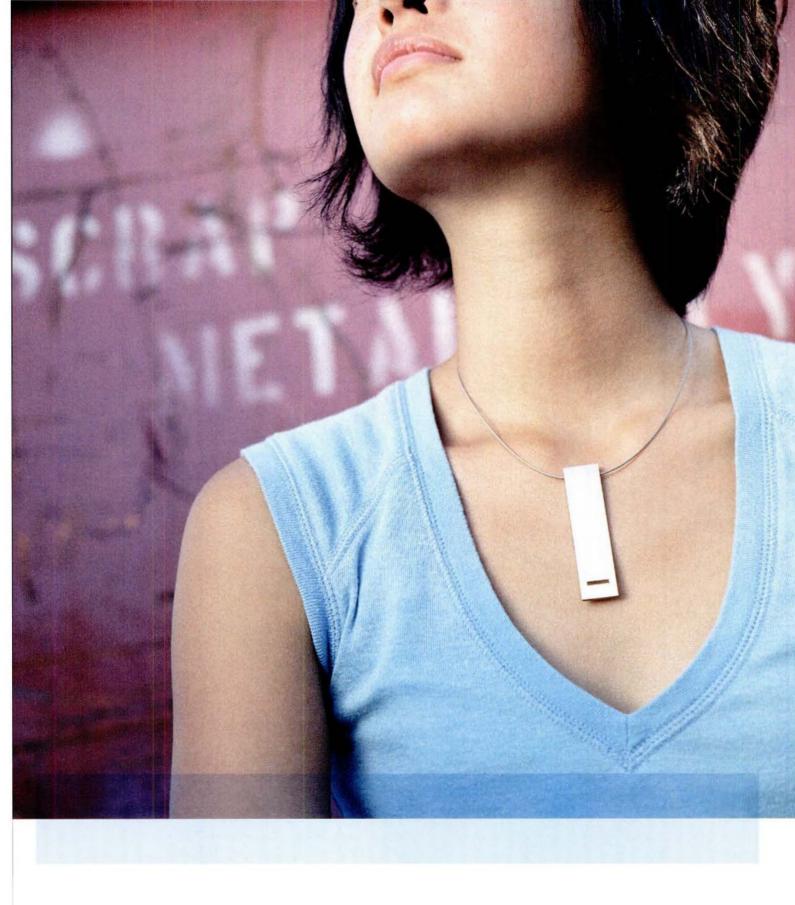
### Bryan Bell / September 2003

"My New Year's resolution," Bryan Bell states, "was not to take on any new projects"-a promise he broke almost immediately. Continuing his collaborations with migrant workers and low-income families through his nonprofit Design Corps, Bell (along with graduate students from North Carolina State University) is now designing and building a health-care clinic for the small town of Seaboard, North Carolina, constructing a series of restroom facilities for migrant workers throughout North Carolina (they have built one and applied for funds to build another five), and planning a spring conference in Atlanta on architecture for underserved populations. You can read more about Bell's recent activities in his book, Good Deeds, Good Design, published this fall by Princeton Architectural Press.



### Stephanie Odegard / October 2003

In addition to the rugs she designs for her first company, Odegard, Inc., Stephanie Odegard is now selling items for the rest of the house through a second company called the Stephanie Odegard Collection. From blankets made in Kashmir to shawls from Vietnam, Odegard calls this carefully curated international collection "jewelry for the home." Always attuned to social and environmental concerns, her home collection maintains the same high standards as her rugs always have: sustainable materials used in production, fair labor practices for her workers, and partnerships with artisans from around the world.



"I wanted kids to meet an architect," Mohammed Lawal explains, "so they could see this is a viable profession."

### Mohammed Lawal / June 2003

First and foremost, Mohammed Lawal is an advocate for education. Still deeply involved in his Architectural Youth Program, teaching the principles and practice of architecture to at-risk teens, he also designs school buildings in his daily work with KKE Architects. Having just completed one sustainable high school-which incorporates natural daylight, saving the school 55 percent on its energy bills-he plans to start work on another, this time a K-12 facility. With his keen educative interests, it's no surprise to learn that his father was a mathematician and his mother an English teacher. Says Lawal, "My family has always been involved in education in some form or another."





"You don't need to disassociate good design from politics," says Anne Fougeron.

### Anne Fougeron / March/April 2003

Still busy with projects for Planned Parenthood (she's currently working on a new clinic in Oakland, California), Anne Fougeron continues to merge the personal and the political with the architectural in her quest to "make spaces that engage people." Recently chosen by the city of San Francisco to build one branch library and remodel another, Fougeron sees these new commissions as another step forward in her commitment to good community design. "Libraries play an enormously important social role, providing common spaces in neighborhoods where people don't have anywhere else to go," she says. "Literacy is the frontier for getting people out of misery." >

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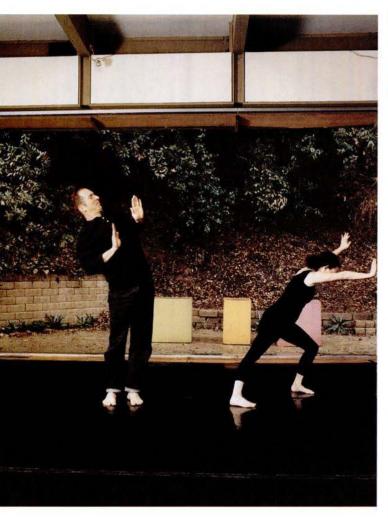
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"Los Angeles's modern dance scene is small, but so much creative work is coming out of here." says Diana MacNeil.

### Diana MacNeil and Roger Gonzalez Hibner / May 2003

Dancers Diana MacNeil and Roger Gonzalez Hibner are continuing the legacy of modern dance and community service that they inherited from the previous owners of the PostHouse. Over 15 Los Angeles dance companies now use the PostHouse for rehearsal, and all are wildly enthusiastic about the beauty of the simple wood-and-glass space in a city where places to practice dance are limited. Living and dancing there, MacNeil and Gonzalez Hibner share this appreciation of the place; as MacNeil says, "I see a view of dancers with the hills behind them every time I drive up my street."

Gregory La Vardera sees his house plans as the "one place where I can change the world in some way."

### Gregory La Vardera / July/August 2003

One of Dwell's most supportive fans, Gregory La Vardera continues to log on to the Dwell discussion board around the clock to contribute his daily doses of architectural good sense. Through the discussion board, he developed an interest in modern house stock plans, a side hobby that has since turned into a serious passion. La Vardera has completed two house plans and is now hard at work on a third. Though he hasn't sold one as of this writing, with a little luck and a good advertising campaign, he hopes to add these fully drafted projects to the in-progress roster of his thriving architectural practice in Pennsylvania.





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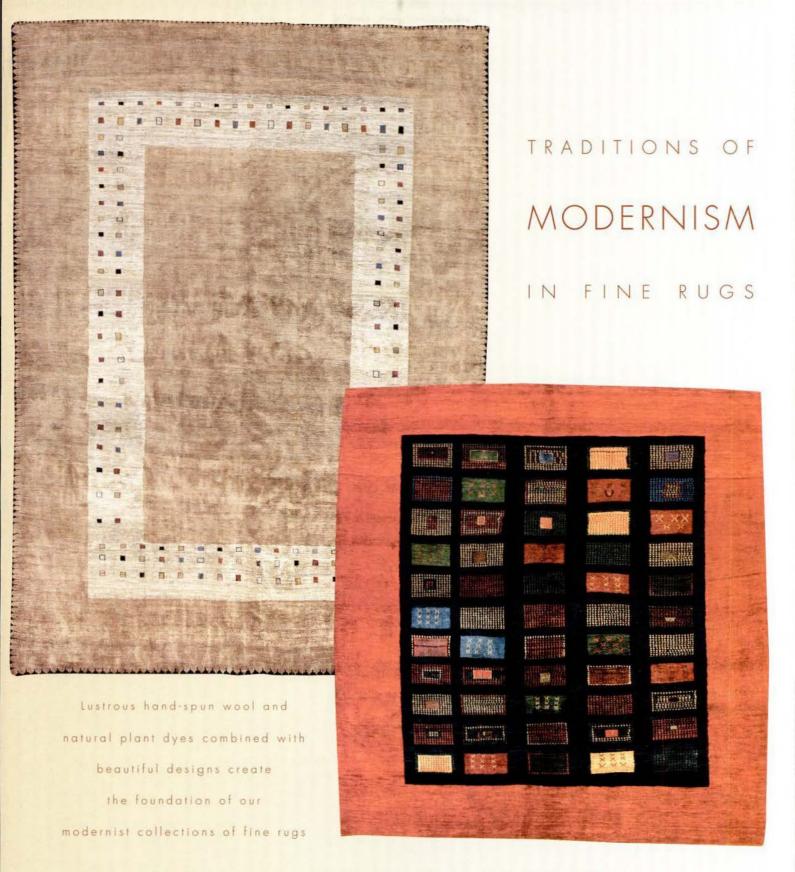


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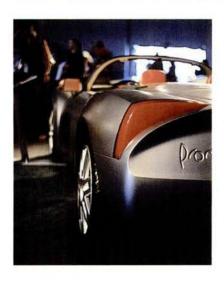
architecture in the United States, it seems a gross oversight to discuss one and not the other. So, we decided to make the trek south on Highway 1 to John Steinbeck country, stopping just before the quaint, hilly streets of Carmel on the heart of pomp and circumstance—the 18th green of the Pebble Beach golf course in Monterey. Here, overlooking the Pacific Ocean, is the epicenter of one of America's oldest auto shows, the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance.

Created in 1950 to showcase the nation's burgeoning automotive prowess, the Concours has grown from a showcase of pre- and postwar classics to include the latest in concept cars and related art and products. With events like the Concorso Italiano featuring the best of Italian design (they also have hundreds of non-Italian cars, too) and the historic speed races at Laguna Seca occurring the same weekend, the Concours is a great way to gauge the past, present, and future of car design.



# ...at the Concours d'Elegance

Dwell cruises down the California coast in a less-than-classic Ford to peruse one of the world's most prestigious auto shows.



#### **Concept Cars**

The most miraculous thing about concept cars is their ability to remain so ahead of their time years after their conception. Dreamed up in 1998, the Chrysler Pronto Spyder (at left) is made from polyethylene terephthalate (PET)—the same recyclable material used to make plastic soda bottles—and is said to reduce manufacturing costs by 80 percent.

Everyone from Alfa Romeo to Cadillac had dream designs on display. Ford brought their 2003 Mustang GT Coupe concept (above), featuring a modified rear-wheel-drive architecture that should show up in the actual 2005 Mustang. If rear-wheel-drive architecture can show up in production models, why can't recyclable plastic bodies?



#### 2003 Lamborghini Gallardo

"Design" entered the vocabulary of most teenage guys when contemplating the sweet Lamborghini poster on their wall. Every bit as drool-worthy as its predecessors, the new Gallardo's lean profile betrays every one of its 500 horses. The uncluttered integration of intakes, headlights, and door handles lacks only one thing: those kick-ass scissor doors from our old poster—which is probably as close as we'll get to owning a Lamborghini as long as they're \$160,000.





#### Pietro Frua

Pietro Frua's understated and elegant designs for manufacturers like Maserati, Lamborghini, and even Chevrolet were on display at the Concorso Italiano in honor of what would have been the designer's 90th birthday this year. The showcase offered an overview of one of Italy's premier coach builder's body of work and some insight into 1950s and '60s Italy—commonly referred to as the golden age of classic Italian styling. No detail was too minute; everything mattered to Pietro Frua and the world is a better place for it.



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#### **What We Saw**



#### **Blackhawk Exposition Sale of Classic Cars**

A rare opportunity to see (and purchase) some of the most unique cars in the world, including the 1954 Chrysler Desoto Adventurer II Ghia (the only one ever made). The Adventurer (at left) marked the beginning of Virgil Exner's tenure at Chrysler as chief stylist. Exner attributed much of the design to Ghia, the Italian company that built most of Chrysler's concept cars. After making the car-show rounds, the Adventurer was purchased by Sidi Muhammad ibn Youssef, the King of Morocco, in 1956. However, a two-door coupe proved impractical, so he sold it to an American diplomat soon after. Too bad for the King.

#### Hot Wheels' Designer Larry Wood

As fiercely collected—but more easily stored—as the aforementioned cars, Mattel's Hot Wheels toys have been a part of car culture since their debut in 1968. Now, after almost 35 years as their chief designer, Larry Wood is touted as "the most prolific automotive designer" ever, creating everything from uncanny replicas of contemporary production cars (right down to the drivetrain) to wacky fantasy vehicles to high-end specialty collector cars. Nowadays, the former are produced using car manufacturers' actual 3-D computer files, but the latter—like the imminent cartoon car series—still allow Wood to pick up a pen and go nuts.





#### **Monterey Historic Automobile Races**

It's one thing to look at hundreds of beautiful cars sitting in the grass, but seeing them squeal around the wavy Laguna Seca raceway at 100 mph is far more exhilarating. Better still is the fact that many of the cars are race celebrities—like the Ford GTs that dominated the 24 hours of Le Mans from 1966 to 1969—or have personalities, as the graphics above attest. Perhaps best of all: the delectable corn dog consumed while witnessing the event.

#### **Automotive Aluminum Design Challenge**

The Aluminum Association announced its Automotive Aluminum Design Challenge in which a student from Detroit's College for Creative Studies will be paired with a student from Pasadena's Art Center College of Design and then each of the 14 teams must come up with the next sport aluminum vehicle (SAV). Judged equally on four basic criteria—overall design, safety, impact on the environment, and performance of the vehicle—the competi-

tion is aimed at showcasing aluminum's design flexibility and encouraging the next generation of car designers to explore new materials. By having the students team up with a partner halfway across the country, it also urges them to learn the fundamentals of long-distance design collaboration—a necessary skill in the world of automobile design. The winning team, picked by a jury including J Mays, vice president of global design at Ford, will be selected in January 2004.



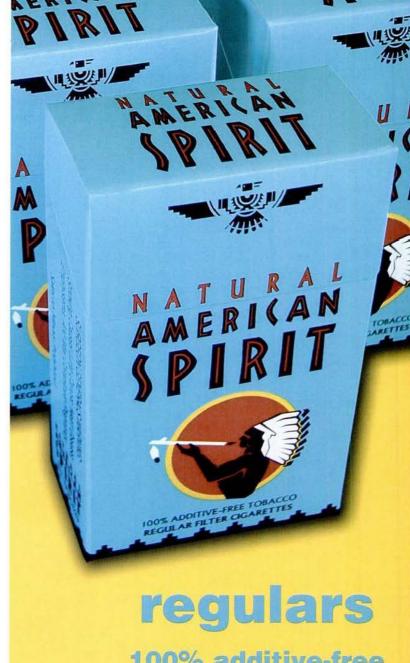
#### Details, Details, Details

Features like tailpipes, blinkers, and gas-tank cap covers that are often given short shrift were actually some of the best parts of the cars on display at the Concorso Italiano. Clockwise from top left: louvered side air scoops on the Saleen Mustang S281-E; control panel on the 1969 AC 428; driver's side low-cut door on the 2003 Cizeta V16T Spyder; headlights on the 2003 Ferrari 575M Maranello; air intake on the 1976 Ferrari Dino 208GT4; and blinker light on the Lamborghini 400 GT 2+2.



#### The Carcoon

You're probably thinking precisely what we thought: What the hell?! Well, allow us to tell you what the hell. Believe it or not, the Carcoon is a vast improvement over your moldy blue tarp. Two fans inflate the plastic bubble and the "active airflow system" (worldwide patents pending) provides "super-atmospheric circulating airflow," keeping your car not only dry and virtually dust-free but also free of chlorine, alcohols, benzene, toluene, glycols, trichloroethylene, herbicides, acetone, and other ketones—all of which can harsh your finish. Michael Jackson himself couldn't have dreamed up a more paranoid way to spend money, but at \$499 (depending on size), even he can afford one.



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# Gangoly's Graz

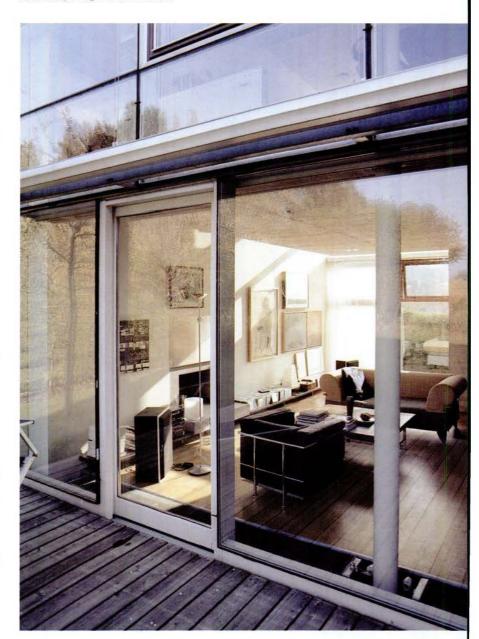
With nearly 300 registered architectural offices, Graz, Austria (pop. 230,000), may have more architects per capita than anywhere else on earth. Like most of them, Hans Gangoly was first drawn here by the technical university and by the legacy of a group of radical, free-thinking architecture students who took over the design studios and wrote a manifesto in the 1970s in order to establish what eventually became known as the Grazer Schule, or Graz School. Although the Graz School advocated experimentation and revolution, the heirs of the movement—architects like Gangoly—have developed a more restrained version of modernism.

In 1998, Graz was chosen as the Cultural Capital of Europe, which prompted a wave of major new architectural commissions by such international superstars as Peter Cook and Vito Acconci, as well as Grazian regulars Klaus Kada, Markus Pernthaler, and Gangoly himself. Those buildings were finished in 2003, a year of festivities that celebrated Graz as a cultural capital.

Gangoly and his wife, Andrea, have lived in Graz for nearly 25 years. Although the winters are tough and one can feel isolated here, the couple say they love the city for its mixture of old and new—big-city cosmopolitanism evenly spiced with small-town rusticity. On one corner you might see a frau in a traditional felt cap, on the next a shimmering blue Plexiglas bubble (Kunsthaus Graz, a new museum by Peter Cook). Graz boasts an unusual number of cultural institutions, including an opera house and a new music hall designed specifically for avant-garde classical music. And in a couple minutes' walk from the center of town, you can be navigating your way up a trail into the Alps.

Several years ago, the Gangolys decided to design and build a house on the outskirts of Graz. They purchased a small plot of land (5,375 square feet) on the edge of protected farmland, and began looking for ways to construct an inexpensive house that could stand up with the best in Graz but still address their living needs. The result is an extraordinary blend of minimalism and material richness. The floor plan is completely open, with a single room (kitchen, living room, and dining room) on the ground floor. On the second floor are a bathroom and a bedroom and reading room separated by a sliding door. The two long side walls, facing the countryside, are completely glazed, while the ceiling and structural walls are in unfinished concrete. "Living in a house with an immediate connection between inside and outside is like having a constant holiday," explains Gangoly.

Recently, Dwell caught up with Hans Gangoly in his studio in Graz to find out what an architect worries about when designing his own house. >



The Gangolys' patio is seamlessly integrated with the open main floor, where a Le Corbusier armchair sits with its back to the glazed wall. The house's rear façade reveals Hans Gangoly's classic modernist style—despite the Graz School's radical influence. ③ p.150







Oceanside Glasstile



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#### Elsewhere

Why did you decide to design and build your own house?

Our original plan was to buy the apartment we'd been renting for years, since it had the quality of familiarity. But the landlord wouldn't sell. When we worked out the economics of it, it appeared that we'd actually save money by building [a new house], which was a surprise. We used a lot of inexpensive materials, like poured concrete and prefabricated glass façades.

#### What were your main concerns as a designer?

It's a pretty small house, with only a 1,200-square-foot footprint. We wanted to have enough room so we could each have privacy when we needed it. But also we wanted to create a sense of openness. One of the things I love is the floating floor and the floating ceilings, which are not attached to the glass walls. There's a slight gap all the way around, which makes it seem like the house opens to the landscape. Also, we knew we'd want to expand someday. So, we've got the staircase—the only interruption in the cube of the house—that takes you up to the roof. We plan on putting two enamel bathtubs up there and building a wooden porch, for summer entertaining. But for the time being, the garden will have to do.

#### What was it like being your own client?

I talk a lot to my clients when I design. In fact, I do a lot more talking and thinking about the way they live their lives and who they are than I do drawing. So for me it was a process of asking myself all the questions I ask the client: What are your eating habits, do you smoke, do you do sports, do you drink red or white wine, what kind of car do you drive, do you prefer to sit or lie down when you read? These sorts of things. Then, the concept of the house usually follows the script that develops, but also it tries to project a new script as well. I like to think I can seduce my clients to lead a new life in their house or whatever it is I'm designing. So in this case, I suppose I was trying to seduce myself.

#### What is your favorite space in the house?

There are a lot of special places in the house. There must be. It's my own house. I like the bedroom very much. The bed is in the middle of the room and you can walk completely around it. So it is not determined where you have to lay your head. The whole garden side of the house is covered with glass, so it's kind of like sleeping outside.

#### What's up with the leather?

The entire second floor is in upholstered leather. At first, we thought about putting a deep carpet down, but memories of my parents' house in the 1970s—completely carpeted in shag—made this impossible. At the time I'd just designed an office for a client with an upholstered leather wall, and I thought, Why not a leather floor? I love it. It's a very pleasant solution, smell included.





Top: The leather floor is warm underfoot and radically offsets the concrete's coldness. Above: A vista from the second floor reveals the geometric force of Gangoly's floating wall and bookshelf. Right: A grand view of the countryside accompanies the walk upstairs.







les Van Der Rohe day be

















Time sofa bed



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Fly sectional sofa

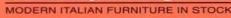
Thai bed with hidden storage, cantilevered night stands and a built in light

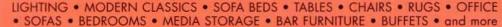


Modern classic leather platform bed









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Le Corbusier sofa













Plasma T.V. stand

















With festivities celebrating Cultural Capital status, 2003 was an especially good year for Graz. But the Austrian city will continue to reap its harvest of experimental 21st-century architecture for years to come.

#### Go to Graz

#### 1 / Graz 2003

Throughout 2003, Graz has been bursting at the seams with cultural events, as part of its celebration as this year's Cultural Capital of Europe. The best time to visit is now, when the annual Steirischer Herbst art festival brings avant-garde dance and music to the city. Highlights of the season include Olga Neuwirth's libretto Lost Highway, which runs October 31–November 8. From November 21–25, check out the Dry Clean Show, enigmatically predicted to be a fashion "liturgy and exhibition in one." Cultural Capital of Europe: www.graz03.at Steirischer Herbst festival: www.steirischerherbst.at

#### 2 / 03 Bar

The Cultural Capital commission hired Gangoly to redesign an old office building into an information kiosk, café, and bar. Gridded on the outside with the city's distinctive blue-green logo, the interior is a sleek, chic space with a wonderfully inventive fabric ventilation shaft that gives the dining area the sense of a tent. For more information, call 011-43-316-2003.

#### 3 / The Island on the Mur

Floating in the middle of the Mur River, which cuts through town, Vito Acconci's stainless steel urban island has become one of Graz's most popular hangouts. With a café and urban amphitheater, this is the place to see and be seen. The side of the glass café even sports a small play area for kids. www.acconci.com

#### 4 / Loopy Doopy Airport

You'll know that something extraordinary is happening here the minute you get to the airport, where *Loopy Doopy*, an installation by Flora Neuwirth, enlivens the arrival/departure lounge. Hearkening back to Sol Lewitt's wall drawings, Neuwirth's yellow and pink waves an apt welcome to a city where new architecture is no stranger to installation art. www.floraneuwirth.at

#### 5 / Shadow Clock Tower

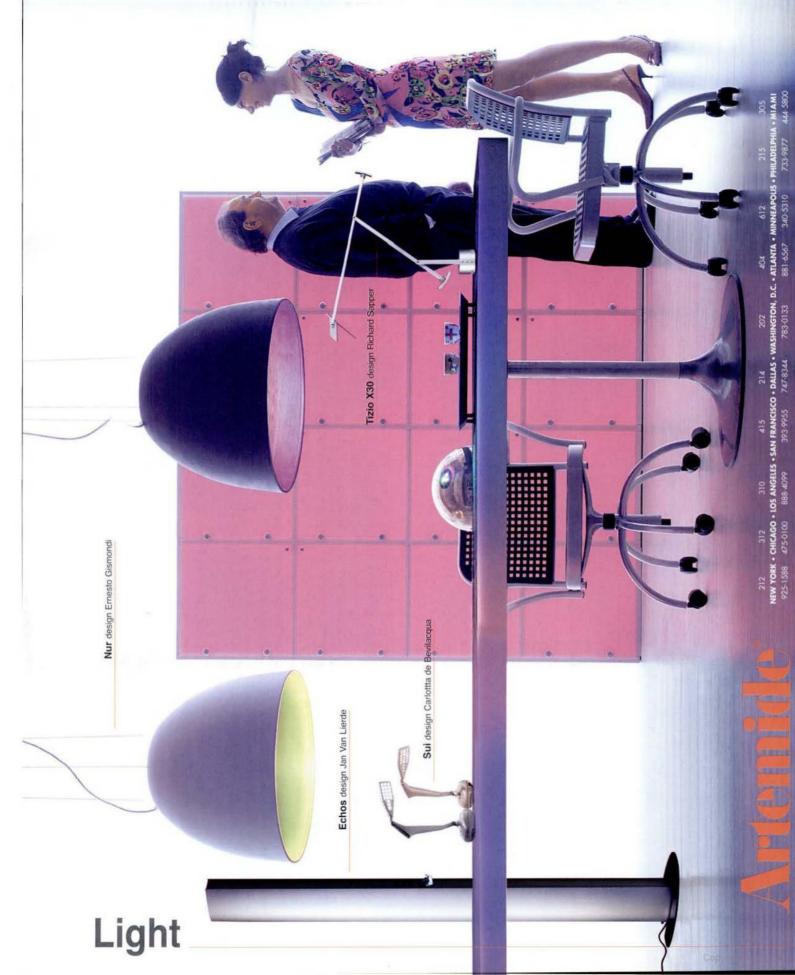
When the French occupied Graz in the early 19th century, the citizens of the city paid a handsome sum of money to stop them from ransacking their clock tower. The 16th-century tower remains a landmark atop the city's central hill. It now has a three-dimensional shadow—a temporary steel duplicate right next door—constructed by a young Austrian artist named Markus Wilfling. Supposedly a statement about the materiality of objects, the shadow—and the double takes it engenders—has certainly affected Grazian necks. www.graz03.at

#### 6 / Kunsthaus Graz

Architectural history will never be the same now that this "friendly alien" has opened on the banks of the river Mur. In this design by Peter Cook and Colin Fournier, we see a built update of the same fanciful expression that filled the pages of Archigram three decades ago. A vaguely zoomorphic bubble shape hovers over the ground, with conspicuous nozzle-like skylights that poke out of the roof. www.kunsthausgraz.at

#### 7 / Erwin Wurm's Fountains

If you stroll to the Domenig-Spitz corner, you might notice three understated concrete boxes of water. Wurm's fountains modestly contain a mystery—they are larger underground than above, and light effects make an illusory group of subterranean chambers. Wurm explains: "The city as labyrinth with its spaces and lights is drawn into the deep. During the day sunlight suffuses the colorfully painted basins while at night light streams through the water, out of the city's underground spaces. Every city has subterranean halls. Spaces, passageways full of water—the possible fascination is concealed."





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# Have You Been Naughty or Nice?

'Twas November/December when all through the house Cute creatures were stirring, in leash and in blouse The stockings were hung on the Eames Hang-It-All In hopes there would be no more trips to the mall

Angela Adams "Betty" rug, \$600; Petro Zillia blouse, \$248; Bonafide Manifesto cord slacks, \$118; Rotor coffee table, \$1,395; Alessi watch, \$99; Indigo paper vase, \$34; Jonathan Adler owl, \$170; Publique Living tray, \$108; Zoetrope subscription, \$19.95; Bitch subscription, \$15; The Believer subscription, \$65; Target Scrabble, \$49.99; Dwell's cairn terrier, Wally; Bellatoff leash, \$65; Extreme Horticulture by John Pfahl, \$50; Mini House by Alejandro Bahamon, \$29.95; Tocca candles and box, \$180.

## THE ART OF PERFECT FLOOR CARE



#### **Holiday Gift Guide**

The panini was nestled snug in its grill bed While MP3s shuffled and *Swiss Made* was read And Mama in Helmut Lang, and I in my cap Could Prouvé provide a long winter's nap? Eva Solo Bird feeder, \$103; Prouvé Cité armchair, \$2,125; Ply Design Seed tote, \$298; Target bar set, \$19.99; Kartell "Trays" low table, \$365, and three-shelf trolley, \$913; Elaine Miles Flattened Vase, \$160, and Ripples Bowl, \$100; Swiss Made by Steven Spier with Martin Tschanz, \$45; Philips Audio Jukebox, \$399; Drozdzik silk wrap, \$488; A.F. Vandevorst silk camisole, \$228; Miller et Bertaux split-leg pant, \$398; Helmut Lang shoes, \$350; Orrefors "Mingus" martini pitcher, \$165; Clio snake trivet, \$39; Zwei Mineral Végétal glass, \$14; Krups Universal Grill/Panini Maker, \$100.



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#### ADDS SPARKLE



#### **Holiday Gift Guide**



When from the next room arose such a clatter "What could it be?" I hurriedly chattered Flashes did pop, a drill-radio yapped And all of the gifts were already unwrapped

Eames Folding Plywood Screen, \$1,380; Petro Zillia dress, \$248; Philips 64 MB digital camera, \$99.99; Home / global mohair blanket, \$360; Surly Girl Script Clutch, \$120; Marilyn Neuhart T&O doll, \$72; Bell'occhio gift tags, \$6; Artemide "Nesso" lamp, \$262.50; Pentagram Typographic Calendar, \$20; Archos AV320 video recorder, \$599.95; Parke and Ronen striped shirt, \$104; Armand Bassi pant, \$148, and socks, \$18; Paul Smith boots, \$358; Black and Decker Firestorm Drill & Radio Charger, \$109; Mr. P tape dispenser, \$25; Slapstick CD by Nor Elle, \$19.95; Adios Nonino CD by Astor Piazzolla y Su Quinteto, \$16.98; eieio wrapping paper,\$3.25-\$5/per sheet; Coconut rug, \$300.

For store and manufacturer info, see page 150.





# The Family Juhl



An art aficionado—as well as architect and designer—Finn Juhl filled his home with pieces that reflected his modernist sensibilities, as seen in his living room, pictured above.

From wooden bowls and table lamps to furnishings and airplane interiors, mid-century Danish architect and designer Finn Juhl instilled his functionalist ideals in countless objects and spaces. As he wrote in 1950, "If I manage before I take my leave of this world to fill the house I have designed with furniture, rugs, curtains, fittings... that I myself have designed, then I will have reached my true goal."

With the exception of some spoons and other small things, he realized this goal in his own house, one of the first works of architecture he completed and one of only a few homes he ever created. Finished in 1942, the house in Klampenborg, Denmark, still stands much the same as it was when it was first built.

Two parallel rectangular blocks sit on the site, the shorter of which holds the living room and a small work-room, and the larger containing the dining room, kitchen, bedrooms, and bathroom. A small hallway-like room connects the two structures and provides a view of the garden. Since Juhl was fond of visual lightness, the exterior of the house is covered in brick that has been

whitewashed a soft whitish-gray, providing a sharp contrast with the dark forest behind.

The most impressive part of the home, however, is the interior. Full of Juhl's furnishings, it is a perfectly preserved homage to his principles of design: utilitarian, but imbued with the flowing forms of modern art and sculpture. His Chieftain chair, inspired by tribal weapons and tools, placidly sits looking out a large window onto the garden. His geometric Domino rugs, intended to be combined in groupings like Japanese tatami mats, are scattered over the floors, and his curvilinear Poet sofa still rests in the living room. Walking through the rooms is like entering a tableau in a design museum.

"One cannot create happiness with beautiful objects, but one can spoil quite a lot of happiness with bad ones," Juhl told *Interiors* magazine in 1951, spelling out his credo for furnishing spaces. Having lived there until his death in 1989 with his second wife, Hanne Wilhelm Hansen (who continued to live there until she passed away earlier this year), Juhl made his house into the perfect expression—inside and out—of his aesthetic ideals.

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We sell macaroni and cheese. Allow us to explain. Somewhere out there a chef is proudly serving this simple, classic dish. This is her art, her contribution to the world, and in a small way the world is better for it. Her craftsmanship, creativity and attention to detail has made what was once mundane, and mostly ignored, now a thing of eminent beauty. A thing people will truly enjoy. The designers we represent had the same task before them and their contribution to the world was simple, timeless, beautiful furniture. They created durable pieces that have stood the test of time. Their tried and true masterpieces can be used and used again, and they'll still be beautiful and relevant years from now. Our chef would tell you comfort food deserves comfortable furniture and her wisdom would be spot on. In fact, we think the simple perfection that is macaroni and cheese speaks to the heart of every great designer we feature. So there you have it. We sell macaroni and cheese.





## Home Is Where the Network Is

Dear Dwell.

I'm intrigued by the concept of home networking and would like to implement it in my own home. Where do I begin?

—Irwin Alexander, Chicago, Illinois

Home networking—connecting your computers so they can share high-speed Internet, files, printers, etc.—is becoming phenomenally popular, for obvious reasons.

You should begin by assessing your level of computer proficiency. If you're a total or even quasi-Luddite, it's smart to hire a consultant to walk you through the benefits, costs, possibilities, and requirements—and, if you decide to go ahead, set up the system for you and be on call for any (and there will be some) future hiccups. Though you should expect to pay up to \$150 an hour, these folks can be worth their weight in gold. The options available also depend greatly on the technology that you have—and it pretty much has to be the most up-to-date.

Your next step will involve the all-important question: wired or wireless? Wired provides the most reliable connection, but may require getting into and then patching up walls—a cost-prohibitive option unless you're gut-renovating or building a house from scratch, says Rafi Kronzon, a founder and co-CEO of Personal Technology Solutions, a company that helps people navigate the sometimes treacherous terrain of home technology.

Running wires between computers, if they're close enough, is another possibility, but, as Kronzon points out, it's "not a pretty one."

And then there's wireless, which requires no messy construction or wires and is great for laptops. The downside is that the connection is slower than hardwired options and reception can be less reliable. Wireless installation kits will provide you with what you need to get going and are available for both PCs and Macs, from about \$100 and up. Keep in mind that wireless also means you have to deal with many more security issues, because your neighbor now has just as much access to your wireless network as you do. This means you will need to create several passwords that you should change frequently.

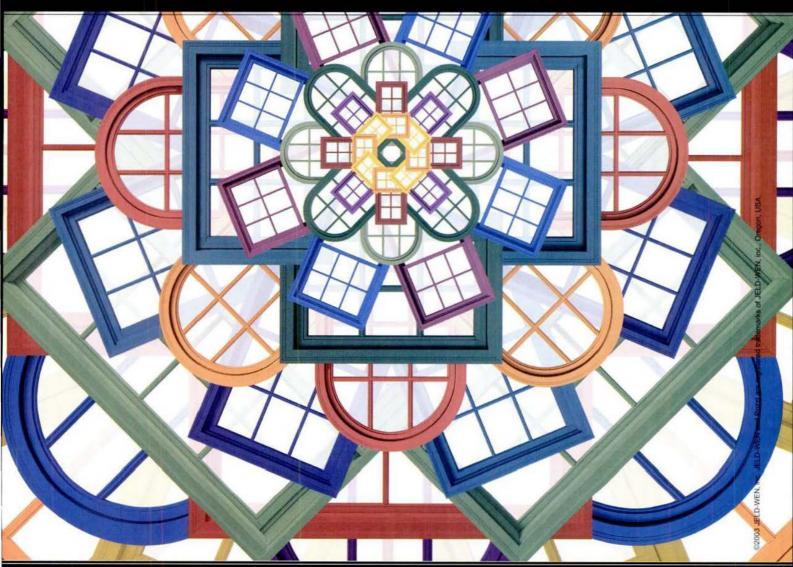
So what's next, dear crystal ball? Running your home entirely through your computer. Leading the way is Linksys, which just announced a product that allows your stereo, TV, and computer to talk to each other. And coming soon: a nanny/baby/whoever-else-you-mayneed-to-spy-on cam that you can watch over the Internet, followed, naturally, by anything else the human brain of the 21st century can concoct.

#### Got a question? Send it to:

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## A Cube With a View

"There's no such thing as bad weather—just improper clothing," declares the Salzburg tourist board. Despite this desperately optimistic slogan, the unmitigated patter of rain that falls on this Austrian city year-round may explain why Mozart was such a tortured soul in his hometown: The precipitation is enough to drive anyone mad.

At the very least, it's enough to drive most people indoors. So when architects Aneta Bulant-Kamenova and Klaus Wailzer tackled the renovation of a prewar villa in Salzburg, their clients, the Sailer family, requested an all-weather room so they could enjoy the outdoors from the comfort of the indoors.

Designing what Bulant-Kamenova describes as "a flowing, unhindered passage to the exterior," the architects used glass to create a membrane-like space that faces the south end of the Sailers' garden. Since the room could not easily be constructed directly on top of the grass (especially in this permanently moist climate), the architects first created a concrete terrace that spans the garden from the south side of the house to the border of the property.

Intrepid minimalists, Bulant-Kamenova and Wailzer

stripped the form of the room down to its most basic details to provide a transparent screen to the garden. Sheets of double-laminated glass were glued together with a silicone adhesive to create the skin of the room, and joinery was kept to a minimum. Instead, the side walls are stabilized against the elements using glass blades and the front wall is attached to two beams, reducing the need for metal clamps or screws. The frameless double door that leads to the garden—almost ten feet tall and weighing a little over 650 pounds—can be fully opened in the summer or when the weather allows.

The final touch is a pergola of galvanized steel that frames the room overhead, providing some shade on rare sunny days and a place for plants to grow and twine on tension ropes that stretch over the glass.

The room is the perfect solution to the Salzburg rain and a beautiful place to watch the weather. As architecture critic Otto Kapfinger writes about the project, "The result is a restrained high-tech jewel that acts as a volatile kaleidoscope between interior and exterior, between architecture and nature."

Describing the overall impression of the room, Bulant-Kamenova says, "The light, transparent skin dissolves. This makes the sensations of the Salzburg rain or the mirror images of the garden seem like magic events."

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The Dwell Home designs have been met with great enthusiasm, and many of the Dwell Home architects have been busy with new prefab commissions. Shown here, from the top, are Dwell Home designs from Marmol Radziner + Associates, Jennifer Siegal of the Office of Mobile Design, and Craig Konyk of Konyk Architecture.



## **Prefab Proliferates**

Over the summer, Resolution: 4 Architecture contracted with Carolina Building Solutions in Salisbury, North Carolina, for the manufacture of the Dwell Home. As we gear up for production, we wanted to update you on the exciting prefab projects being undertaken by some of our other Dwell Home architects and designers.

In August, Konyk Architecture received a commission to build their first *up!house* on 25 acres in Montana. "The project is exciting," says principal Craig Konyk. "No speed limits and no building permit required for residential construction! This will be our first test-drive of the model and we can't wait to take it out for a spin." (www.konyk.net)

Marmol Radziner + Associates are designing two steel-frame prefab homes in California, one near Desert Hot Springs and one in Rustic Canyon in Los Angeles. For the desert house, MR+A are interested in incorporating sustainable technologies, and for the city house, they're exploring how to create a two-story residence on a compact urban site. "We're very excited about exploring the relationship between interior and exterior space," says architect Ronald Radziner. (www.marmol-radziner.com)

The Central Office of Architecture has introduced Modernbox, a new company that will offer innovative, affordable home designs incorporating prefab components and in situ construction. (www.modernbox.com)

After receiving over 2,000 inquiries for her prefab LV Home, designer Rocio Romero began production of the home as a kit house in Perryville, Missouri (where the first American LV was erected). She has also begun design and construction for a new kit house, known as Fish Camp. (www.rocioromero.com)

Jennifer Siegal's firm, the Office of Mobile Design, is building its first prototype Portable House, for a client in San Diego, California. OMD has also launched a new company that will specialize in mass-customized constructions. (www.designmobile.com)

Adam Kalkin has received over 50 queries regarding his galvanized-steel prefabricated house kit. (www.architectureandhygiene.com)

Though Collins + Turner get four to five inquiries a week from the U.S., they admit the "stumbling block is finding a suitable fabricator." Meanwhile, they have been commissioned to develop designs for timber prefab houses in Colorado. (www.collinsandturner.com)

And Dwell Homeowner Nathan Wieler plans to begin selling architect-designed modern homes in early 2004 through Wieler Homes. (www.wielerhomes.com)

For more updates on the Dwell Home, please log on to www.thedwellhome.com. And as always, a big thank-you to our Dwell Home sponsors.

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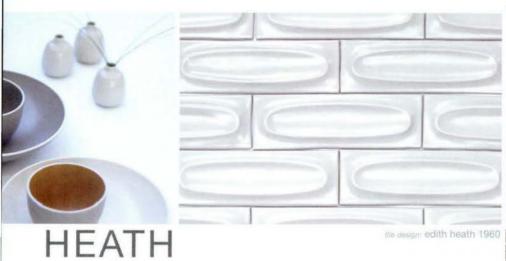








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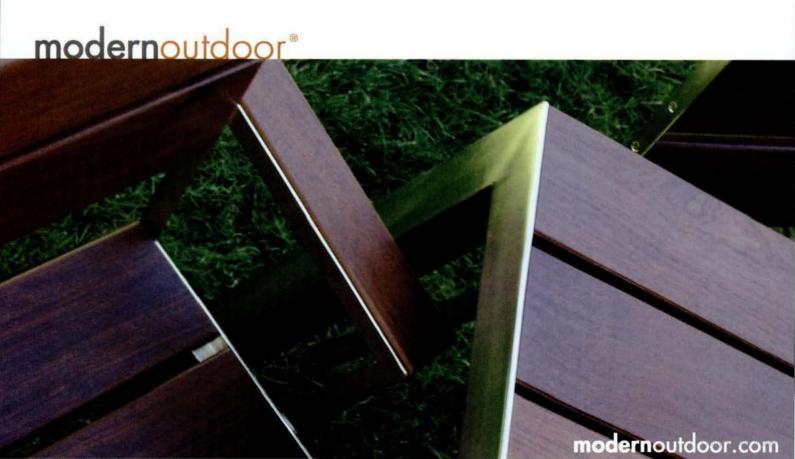
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# The Future Meets the Past

For coppersmith Larry Stearns, a typical day at his Vermont-based company, Vulcan Supply Corp., might include work on ornamental dormers for an Empire-style mansion in Long Island or a massive gold-plated finial for the Bellagio in Las Vegas. Traditional work and historical reproductions provide Stearns with ample opportunity to hone his skills, but when it came to renovating the geodesic dome he calls home, the history books only went as far back as R. Buckminster Fuller. Not entirely sure how to proceed. Stearns called on an old friend. Michael Brandes of Brandes Maselli Architects, to come up with a design that would allow Stearns and his family to remain in the dome while building a new house around it. The Stearnses' future home, which encapsulates the dome in an undulating copper-clad shell, utilizes both the cutting-edge technology available to Stearns at Vulcan Supply-namely, a computer numerically controlled (CNC) cutting machine for creating the curvilinear frames to the architect's exact specifications-and his old-world skills as a coppersmith. The end result, a seamless integration of old and new, is, in the architect's own words, "a handmade skin on high-tech ribs."



# Technology Is the New Craft

Rome wasn't built in a day, but this glass-and-steel house was built in six months.

In an era when cars and cameras talk to their users and the creation of a new Nike shoe calls for a research team to rival that of the Manhattan Project, it's amazing how little home building has changed—even in the centuries since Roman times, when the architect Vitruvius wrote of the necessity of buildings to express "strength, utility, and beauty."

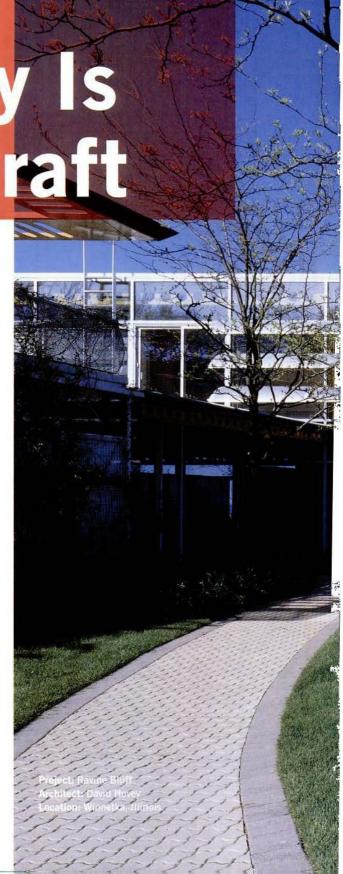
Architect David Hovey ardently adheres to Vitruvius's dictum but in most other respects has devoted his career to squaring architecture with the realities of the 21st century. "The possibilities of technology are infinite and so much more exciting than the old romantic notion of looking backwards," the Chicago-based architect explains. "There is just so much more we can do."

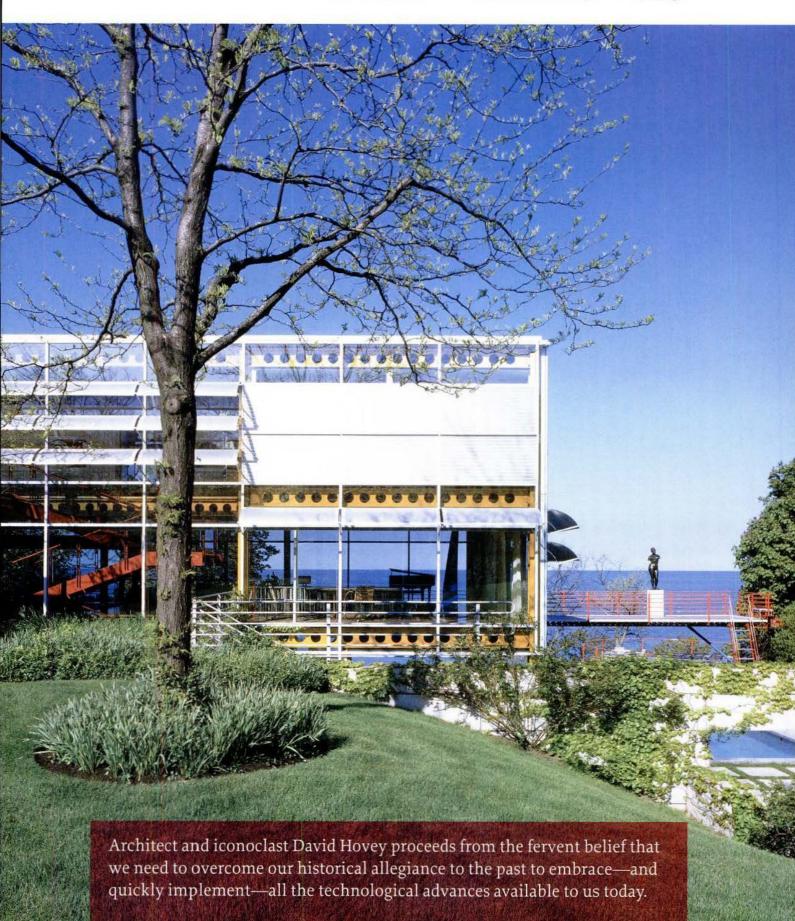
An unabashed modernist, Hovey believes that one should extract the aesthetic from the system and not the reverse. Accordingly, he has integrated the most advanced technologies, materials, and processes into his stunning modern architectural works. "If you show people what's possible," he says, "perhaps a few will like and understand it."

His buildings are complex in the sense of being sophisticated but simple in terms of their ease of construction and functionality. Hovey's architecture beautifully expresses an economy of means, with elements pared down to what's absolutely necessary. Why use three materials, he asks, when you can use just two? Glass and steel, for Hovey, are the clear front-runners.

His technology of choice? Prefabrication, an obsession that dates back to Hovey's years at the Illinois Institute of Technology, where, as a young architecture student in the 1960s, he conceived of a house as a one-piece structure light enough to be transported by a Sikorsky helicopter.

Today, Hovey's son is ▶





working on a prefab house for his master's thesis at IIT, and there are varying degrees of prefabrication—a concrete block, a piece of glass, a cantilevered stair—in all of the elder Hovey's built work.
"Factory fabrication allows for the greatest degree of precision in building," he explains. "That technological precision in turn allows architects to push the envelope of what architecture can be."

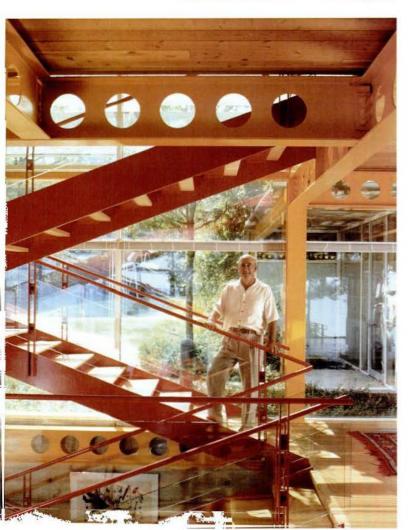
Many speak of the promise of prefab but few have exploited the possibilities of industrial technologies as fully as Hovey. Witness his own residence, pictured here, an 8,500-square-foot home perched on the edge of Lake Michigan that dispels every preconceived notion of the industrialized house in one fell swoop.

Hovey designed and built Ravine Bluff in less time than the average bathroom remodel. The materials, which as individual elements could almost all be bought off the shelf (and which include louvers made from panels Hovey admired on city buses), are made elegant in Hovey's expert configuration.

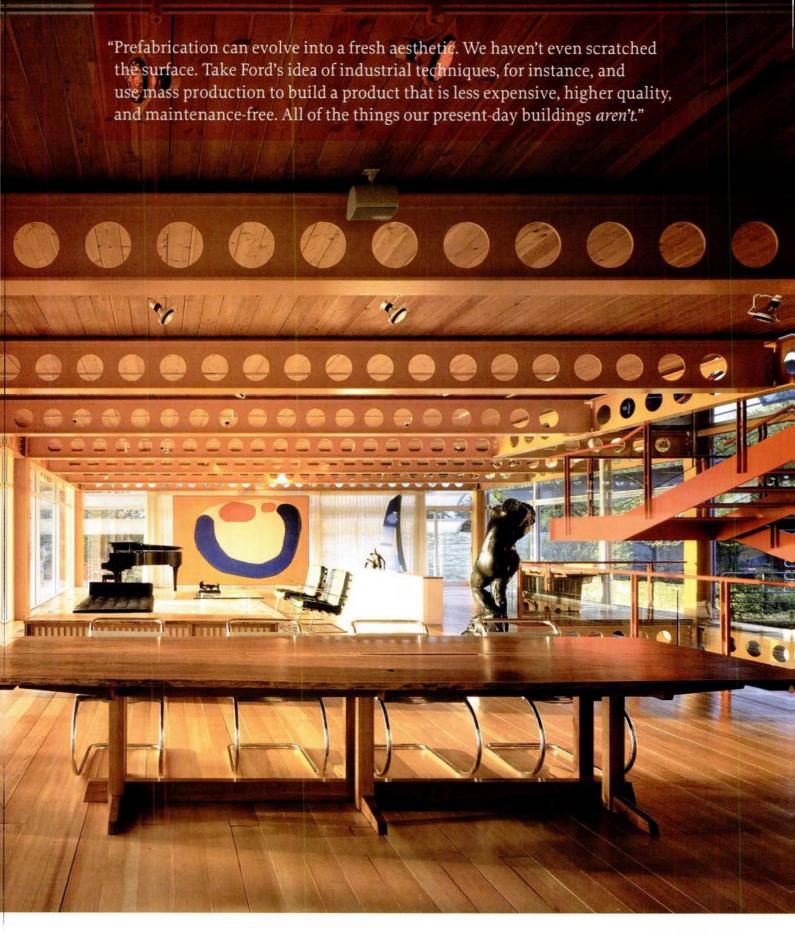
Hovey is seduced by technology and what it can do (check out the 17.5-foot-long cantilevered stair below) but recognizes equally its opposite.

His glass-and-steel structure isn't overwhelmed by the dramatic landscape that surrounds it—rather, it functions as a spectacular machine for viewing. Bold accents in primary colors, a characteristic of many of Hovey's buildings, bring a sense of humor and surprise to the industrial aesthetic.

As intense and masculine as his architecture appears to be, its interiors reveal what may be Hovey's soft spot—collecting. Museum-quality works by artists including Frank Stella, Alexander Calder, Joan Miró, John Chamberlain, Jules Olitski, and August Rodin complement Hovey's vast collection of George Nakashima's poetic wood furniture. Technology may be the new craft, but it's not the only one. ▶







#### **Dwellings**

In the late 1990s, Hovey, who had called Chicago home since 1959, began to search for something different, a new environment in which to build. Tired of building on flat and square city lots, he explored different locations in the West and Southwest before falling in love with Desert Mountain in Scottsdale, Arizona, where everything from the climate to the architectural precedents couldn't be more different from what he'd been accustomed to.

Those diametric opposites to urban Illinois were just what Hovey was after. Arizona, with its rugged terrain, arid climate, and entrenched Southwest vernacular traditions, presented obstacles that inspired, rather than stifled, his creativity. In the desert, he was inspired to rethink what a house should, and could, be.

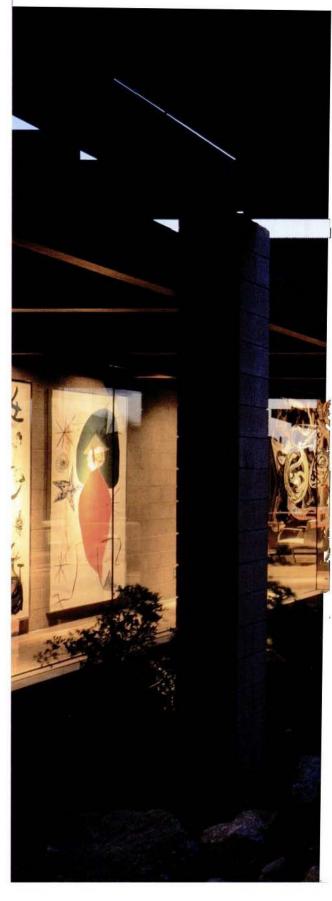
In radical contrast to so many of the houses in Arizona, which turn to traditional exterior materials almost by default and often opt for smaller windows out of a mistaken belief that they'll keep a home cooler, Hovey knew that he could use glass and steel, his materials of choice, in a new and dynamic way. "I've always admired structures before they were covered up," he says. "What you see is the building itself. For this house, steel was the perfect material. It won't deteriorate, it lasts forever, and we won't run out of it."

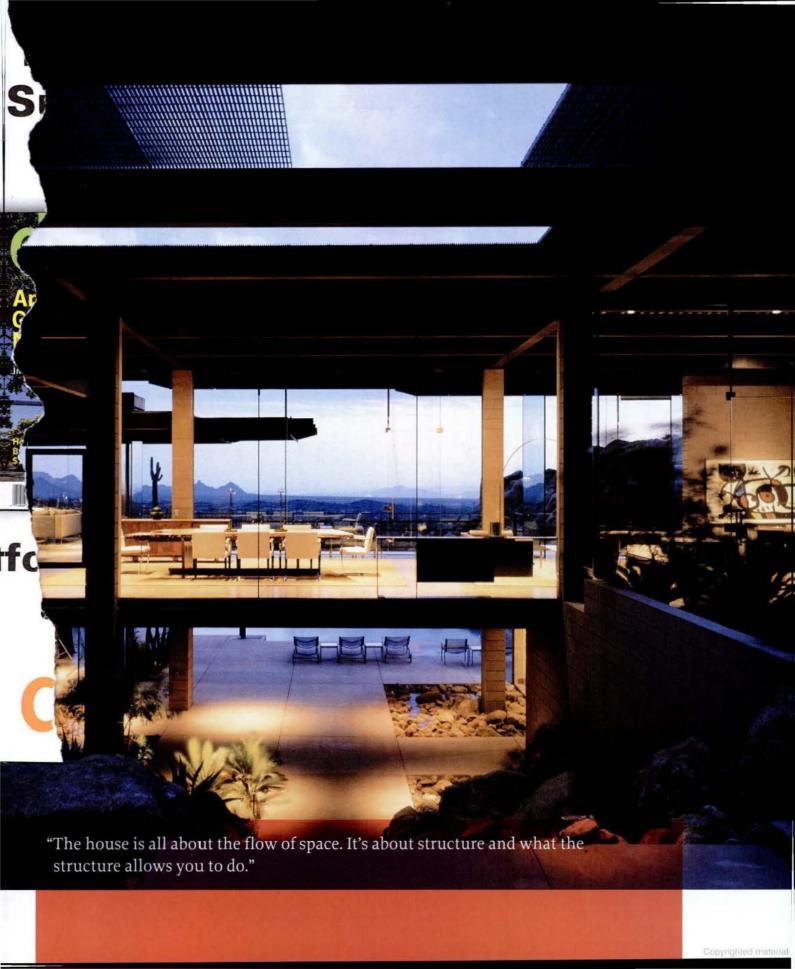
Steel-frame structures make possible the vast spaces and large expanses of glass that fully exploit the natural beauty of the high Sonoran Desert, and characterize not only Shadow Caster (Hovey's vacation home, shown here) but also the ensuing series of houses (four at last count) that he has designed and built in the golf-course community at Desert Mountain.

"You shouldn't have to go outside to experience the desert," Hovey explains, and, accordingly, with Shadow Caster, this architect has created a house that effortlessly fulfills the modernist dream of indoor/outdoor living by providing a seamless transparency between the two.

Project: Shadow Caster Architect: David Hovey Location: Scottsdale, Arizona

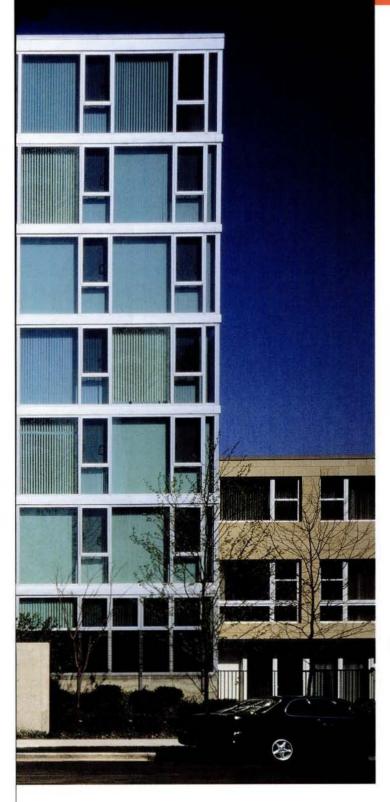








"When you're the architect, the general contractor, and the developer on a project, you're forced to think of new ways of doing things. When you're just the architect sitting in your office and you're not directly related to the cost of the building, these are things you're not so aware of."



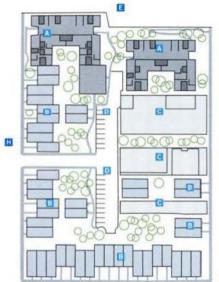
In 1978, Hovey and his wife, Fileen, founded Optima, a company that designs, builds, develops, and markets multiunit residential buildings throughout Chicago, Projects now in the works include several luxury condominium units in Evanston, Illinois, and the Mies-inspired Michigan Place, a recently completed affordable-housing complex of 44 townhomes and 76 condominiums south of downtown, just around the corner from Hovey's alma mater, IIT,

With Michigan Place, Hovey cleverly managed to address the "historic" design elements (like wrought-iron fences and window boxes) encouraged by Chicago's design review board. Despite, or perhaps in spite of, those restrictions, he created this stunning building, a cast-in-place-concrete flat plate structure with a striking

aluminum curtain wall, at a construction cost of just \$93 per gross square foot. Such impressive cost-efficiency was achieved by the use of offsite fabrication, highly functioning materials (like green Solex glass for sun control), and no small amount of good old-fashioned ingenuity—as evidenced by Hovey's innovative solution for the curtain wall.

The available options were too pricey, says Hovey, "so we bought standard windows that could fit between concrete, almost like residential patio doors, and wrapped the edge of the concrete in anodized aluminum for a 'curtain wall' that cost \$21 a square foot. It sounds simple and obvious but it wasn't," he continues. "It took a lot of thought to figure it out. Yet it looks like the most sophisticated curtain wall money could buy."

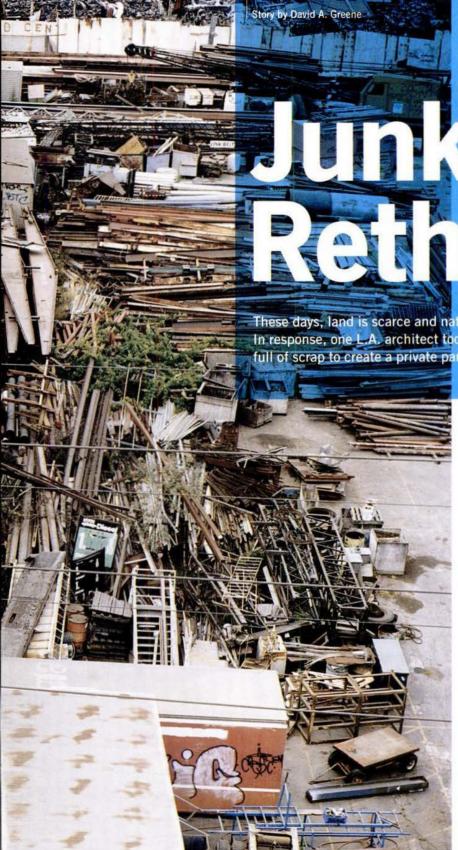
Project: Michigan Place Architect: David Hovey Location: Chicago, Illinois



- A Condominiums
- B Townhomes
- C Common areas
- D Parking
- E East 31st Street
- F South Indiana Avenue
- G East 32nd Street
- H South Michigan Avenue

Nov/Dec 2003 Dwell 107





Project: Carlson Residence
Architect: Office of Mobile Design
Location: Los Angeles, CA

thunk

These days, land is scarce and natural resources seem to be disappearing. In response, one L.A. architect took a challenging site and a junkyard full of scrap to create a private paradise just off the highway for her client.

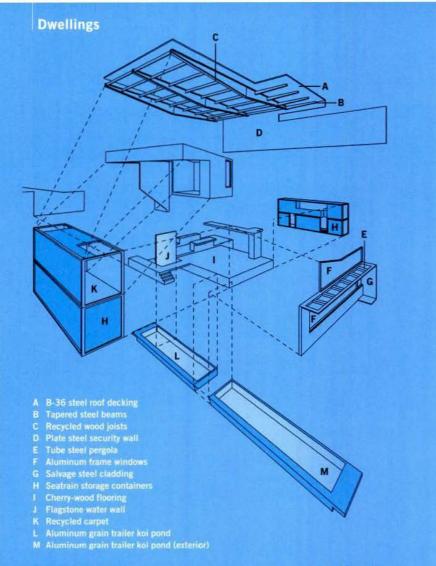
### When it came time to build a new house, Richard

Carlson faced a classic L.A. problem: He loves to drive, but hates to commute. The infectiously enthusiastic 52-year-old, the kind of wheeler-dealer you'd gladly buy a car or chicken rotisserie from, is the scion of a salvage empire started a generation ago on Long Island, New York, by his father, Arnold "Whitey" Carlson. He also owns the Brewery Art Association, a 300-unit artists' loft complex (and former Pabst Blue Ribbon brewery) in the industrial hinterlands of downtown Los Angeles.

Carlson challenged architect Jennifer Siegal to provide him with all the benefits of a rustic sanctuary but within a short commute of the Brewery. Siegal found her answer directly across the street, in Whitey's Yard—a Mad Max jumble of stripped trucks, haphazardly stacked lumber, and piles of steel. To some, the Carlson family scrap yard may look like urban blight or a government Superfund site, but to Siegal it was "a huge wasteland of toys for architects."

Carlson's new 3,000-square-foot house offers him a one-minute commute to the Brewery—on foot. It's also made, in part, from junk that otherwise would be moldering in his father's freeway-adjacent depository. Rusty steel plates form a 12-foot-high wall delineating the house site from the rest of the salvage yard on one side and four shipping containers and a concrete masonry unit (CMU) wall create a boundary from a neighborhood of ramshackle bungalow apartments on the other. Huge steel gates camouflage any inkling of the house from the busy street outside.

Once inside, a corridor formed by two garages leads to Carlson's secret garden, a nascent array of palms, marsh >

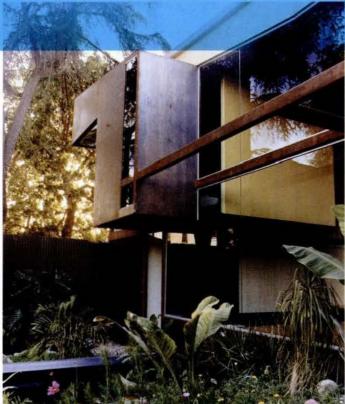


plants, and tropical flowers with a recirculating stream meandering down the center. "You want to come in off the street, get out of your car, and be forced to walk through paradise," says Siegal.

Breezes carry the sound of a freight-train whistle and, surprisingly, the scent of the sea. Urban blight aside, the house actually sits on the once-fertile flood plain of the Los Angeles River (much of which now flows over a cement-lined channel, usually dry enough to be known more for car chases than canoes). After the concrete base of the salvage yard was jack-hammered, plants thrived in the rediscovered soil. Four seagoing freight trailers stacked along the edge of the property contain filtering equipment for the koi. These containers will someday become a guest unit, or a butterfly house—a possibly fleeting idea engendered by Carlson and Siegal's recent vacation to tropical Costa Rica. Closer to the house, a koi pond is made from a five-foot-deep grain trailer. the kind of aluminum container that rumbles down the highway, filled with wheat or tomatoes.

The east and west wings of the main house consist of four other cargo containers—two steel-skinned and two aluminum—that in previous lives transported goods on trucks, trains, and ocean freighters. Both architect and client maintain that the 40-foot-long trailers were not only extant on the site but serendipitously stacked so perfectly that an entire house could be designed and built around them. This may be true, but it doesn't much matter, since the areas of the house that work best are the ones where these metal boxes were altered the most.

Inside, the living area is a wide-open expanse of cherry-wood floors covered by rugs in muted earth tones. The cherry, Ultrasuede, and brushed-aluminum furniture is by artist and designer David Mocarski—who, like Siegal and most of the other artisans who worked on the house, is (or once was) a resident of the Brewery. Mocarski likes the way cherry ages, darkening with exposure to sunlight. Siegal agrees, but is chagrined by its





Opposite: The running stream in the garden was inspired by the summers Carlson spent in the Catskills. This and all other exterior water features were created by Jim Thompson; the landscape design is by James Stone. Far left: Don Griggs's steel fabrication handiwork melds seamlessly with the glass fabrication of Gadie Aharoni of Penguin Construction. The architect, Jennifer Siegal, is shown near left by the interior koi pond designed by Rik Jones of Liquid Works. 6 p. 150



The living area is a wide-open expanse of cherry-wood floors covered by rugs in muted earth tones. The furniture was all designed by David Mocarski. The expressionist painting is by artist Phillip Slagter. \$2,150

less than P.C. pedigree. "It's not the most renewable resource," she says with a sigh, "but you go with the flow."

Behind the living room, on a raised platform, is a utilitarian kitchen. Mocarski referenced Shaker and Quaker design for the cabinets and storage bins—a philosophy he calls "simple-simple-simple, clean-clean-clean." Another grain-container koi pond—inside the house—is backed by a 12-foot waterfall; when lit up at night, it sends shimmering reflections across the ceiling, which is made of recycled old-growth Douglas fir. "I took everything we were trying to develop in the garden and brought it inside the house," says Mocarski. "At night, it's like a warm lantern—very inviting."

Originally, the outdoor koi pond was going to be a lap pool, but Carlson vetoed the idea. Siegal claims, wistfully, that one could still swim in the pond—though they'd be very short laps, and you'd share your lane with fish. It should be noted that Siegal is also Carlson's girlfriend; so in a sense, the house was designed for two. But in the architect-client relationship, the client always wins.

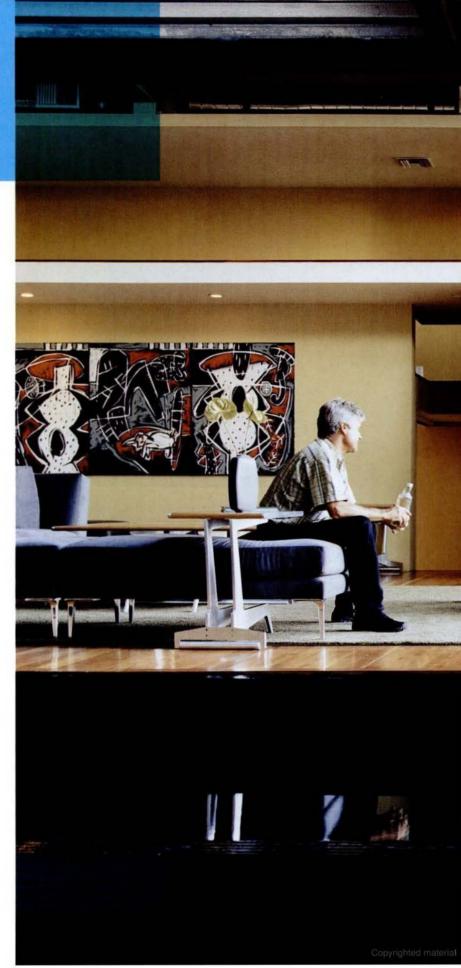
Since the eight-foot-wide boxes lose another eight inches when fitted with drywall and paint, the least comfortable parts of the house are those where the containers have been altered the least. Downstairs from the writing area, in the secondary living space, the house's electrical panel, water heater, and washer/dryer are shoved into the back of one container left relatively untouched, its original teak floor containing the round metal tie-downs once used to secure cargo for ocean voyages. While the floor makes an interesting conversation piece, the dimensions of the long, windowless room feel less residential and more like, well, a cattle car.

The floor above, however, is an entirely different experience. Here, a container has had an entire long side removed and replaced with a waist-high counter.

The result is an upstairs sitting room with a view onto the main living area below and, at the end of the room, a desk in a private nook with a view of the garden.

Cutting into the containers was a high-wire act: "These things rely on their skin for their structural integrity," notes Siegal. "Every time you cut this structural spine, you have to go back in and reinforce it with steel."

Throughout, there is a conscious effort to limit privacy; few interior walls actually meet up with the ceiling. Carlson is used to being the center of attention, and in his new house, he perpetually will be. In the master bath, a cut-out window frames a neighbor's avocado tree, >



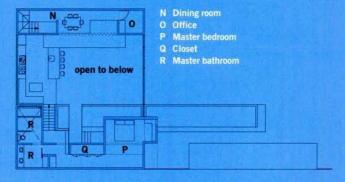


### **Dwellings**

#### First Floor



### Second Floor



Behind the living room, on a raised platform, is a utilitarian kitchen. Mocarski referenced Shaker and Quaker design for the cabinets and storage bins. The floor is cherry wood; the countertops are green granite. Opposite: Views of the main living area featuring furnishings and a color palette by Mocarski and a stacked flagstone wall by Rik Jones. The metal roof (upper right) is made from two sheets of galvanized metal B-decking with four to six inches of rigid insulation between. Nevertheless, explains Siegal, "When the neighbor's avocados hit the roof, it sounds like bombs exploding."

while another portal gives those ascending the interior stairs a peek into the area between shower and toilet. The master bedroom is tucked inside a container that had its front end removed and was expanded with steel and cantilevered out over the garden. Casement windows can be opened to the river breeze—a late addition to the building plan. "Those who commit themselves to a plan and follow it to the letter cheat themselves," says Carlson. "During construction, if you find that a lovely little breeze curls around a pine tree on the property next door and comes right in an opening, it's time to get a window over there. The process itself is a thing of beauty."

Carlson acted as his own contractor on the project, squeezing the best work (and prices) out of subcontractors whose talents he was intimately familiar with. One gets the feeling that, as a boss, Carlson wields a velvet hammer. When asked about city regulations and permits to build such an unusual house in an industrial zone, Siegal admits that certain elements were designed "off the grid." Nor was money an issue: Carlson's previous residence was a Michael Rotondi showpiece at the other end of the street, while a spare garage at the Brewery is stuffed with his mouth-watering collection of fabulously expensive (and well-used) muscle cars. Still, the costs of materials and construction came in at around \$250,000. "You'd think a house like this would be expensive," says Siegal. "But the trailers are only \$6,000 >





### **Dwellings**

Right: The bedroom, with a bed designed by Mocarski. Below: In the master bath, dark green slate was used throughout. Opposite: A small tempered-glass bridge across the koi pond connects the living room to the master bedroom and bath upstairs, and a secondary living room downstairs. It's not exactly child-friendly—but then again, the pond could have been filled with piranhas.



each—and if you own them already, they're free."

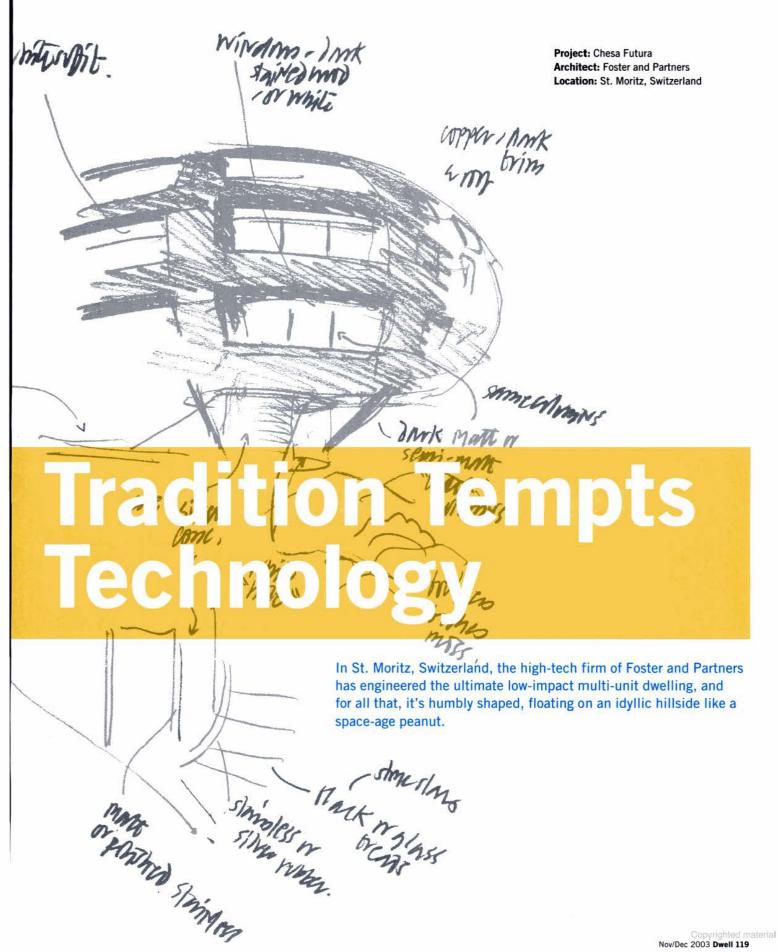
The project is a departure from Siegal's usual practice: The 37-year-old Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc) alum heads her own firm, the Office of Mobile Design, responsible for genuinely portable works including the iMobile, a mobile computer station, and the Eco Lab, a recycled trailer—donated by Carlson—used to teach Los Angeles public school kids about the environment. "We have this relationship of him giving me junk," says Siegal, laughing.

Both inside and out, Carlson's house is remarkable for its humility. It feels more like a solid mid-century dwelling renovated, say, ten years ago, than a house built only last year. This is a compliment, since achieving a sense of permanence—harmony with both the site and its occupants' lifestyle—is what good architecture is all about. Siegal ascribes this to her education in the principles of Los Angeles modernism, as well as the serendipitous benefits of the design/build process, a highwire collaboration that limns the edge of luck and accident. "You're making decisions onsite," she says, "and testing them full-scale in the field." But the true test came when Carlson moved in. "Some people dream of going to Switzerland for the night," he says. "All I want to do is come here."









### **Dwellings**



When the local mayor first saw the Chesa Futura plans, project director Matteo Fantoni explains, "He was silent for 20 minutes. He then eventually said, 'You can have my full support on it, because it is going to be great for our valley, Switzerland, and St. Moritz.'"

Above: View of Chesa Futura in progress last winter. The convex/concave construction gives the striking building

#### It may have been designed with custom software, but

Chesa Futura owes just as much to the kind of chalets conjured up by our mind's eye when we hear the word "Switzerland" as it does to cutting-edge computer technology. Set on the slopes of the Engadin Valley, overlooking the town of St. Moritz and its lake, the shimmering ovoid structure looks every inch a piece of pure 21st-century design. But it turns out that both the inspiration for and execution of this unique project are rooted firmly in Swiss tradition, from the pilotis that raise it from the ground to the wooden shingles that coat its exterior.

Serendipity played a part in the design process as well: When the project's developer, Sisa AG, approached prestigious English practice Foster and Partners, they couldn't have known that they would end up with a project director who knew the Engadin Valley like the back of his hand. In fact, Milan-born Matteo Fantoni had even more insight than some locals into the exact nature of the site, having stayed in the apartment building that would make way for Chesa Futura during some of his numerous visits to the area in his youth. "We had friends who had flats in the building that was there before Chesa Futura," he explains. "So I knew the view, I knew the orientation, I knew the mountains."

Proceeding with an open brief and a blank piece of paper, Fantoni realized that the elevated, curved shape of Chesa Futura would be ideal for the site, and the more he explored this approach, the more practical it became. The steel legs that raise the wooden shell II and a half feet from the ground reference a Swiss mountain-home tradition that prolongs the life of timber structures by minimizing contact with the chilling and dampening snow. It also takes the structure clear of the houses in front of it, meaning that each floor is afforded a much sought-after view of the lake.

The five-story building that Fantoni vacationed in as a teenager had two lower levels that suffered from views restricted by the houses in front of them and the resultant lack of light. That's something Chesa Futura's residents will never need to worry about, as the building's convex southerly aspect contains ten-foot-wide windows that look out onto a terrace and offer panoramic views >

### Exploded view of the building elements

- A Internal floor panels and primary beams
- B Roof structure
- C External walls (skin not shown)
- D External façade columns
- E Internal walls
- F Interior columns

- G Internal walls around staircases
- H Reinforced concrete slab
- I Reinforced concrete cores
- J Steel table and legs

Rendering by Arup

of St. Moritz. The north-facing rear of the building is radically different—concave to afford maximum insulation from the mountain winds, it is dotted with small windows set at an angle so as to allow the maximum sunlight in while protecting the building from the often extreme conditions.

Despite its elevated position, Chesa Futura intrudes no further into the skyline than its predecessor. Just over 50 feet tall at its apex, the building has been constructed with a slight downward tilt as the valley rises to ensure that it fits snugly into the envelope left by the old building. This was vital to comply with local planning regulations and make sure that neighbors would not lose their views of the lake. Such a radical design in this idyllic location was bound to bring some objections, but by meticulously keeping within local codes, Foster and Partners minimized disruption to the project. Getting the local mayor on board helped, too, even though he wasn't so sure about things when he first saw the plans.

"He was silent for 20 minutes," says Fantoni. "He then eventually said, 'You can have my full support on it, because it is going to be great for our valley, Switzerland, and St. Moritz." This seems to have been an astute judgment, as the building has already become something of a tourist attraction, with locals and visitors alike stopping to take snapshots or simply stand and stare.

From a distance, Chesa Futura almost appears to hover above the side of the valley like a wood-clad mother ship, the sun illuminating its larch shingles. These hand-cut wooden tiles, which cover the entire surface of the building, are another piece of Swiss tradition that Foster and Partners sought out in their travels across the Alpine region looking for inspiration and materials. One great discovery was 82-year-old Lorenz Kraettli, who has been making shingles all his life.

"He selected 80 trees, took them home, and with his family chopped all the pieces," says Fantoni. "They produced 250,000 pieces out of 80 trees and then put them on the structure of the building over the batons for a period of five or six months. We learned a lot from him about how to cut trees. You can have better structural performance if you cut radial to the log. It creates a much stronger scheme that will last as long as possible."

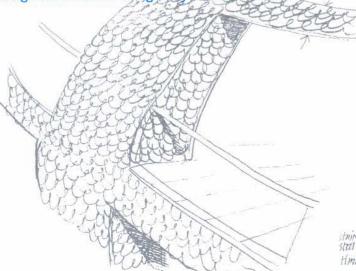
The structure is topped off with a copper roof, another Swiss material used for practicality as much as tradition. Its malleability at low temperatures (which can reach below zero Fahrenheit in the valley) meant that it could be fabricated onsite, rather than having to be awkwardly transported through the tiny side streets of St. Moritz. It is this ability to adapt and think ahead that Fantoni believes has made the project such a success, in terms of both construction and in building relationships in the local area.

"The people who have been helping us from the city and the people related to the project have always been very courageous," he explains. "This has a lot to do with the spirit of the place." He cites the sporting attitude that pervades in St. Moritz as an example of this "can do" approach, from the kite surfers catching the brisk winds on the lake to the competitors in the annual ski marathon.

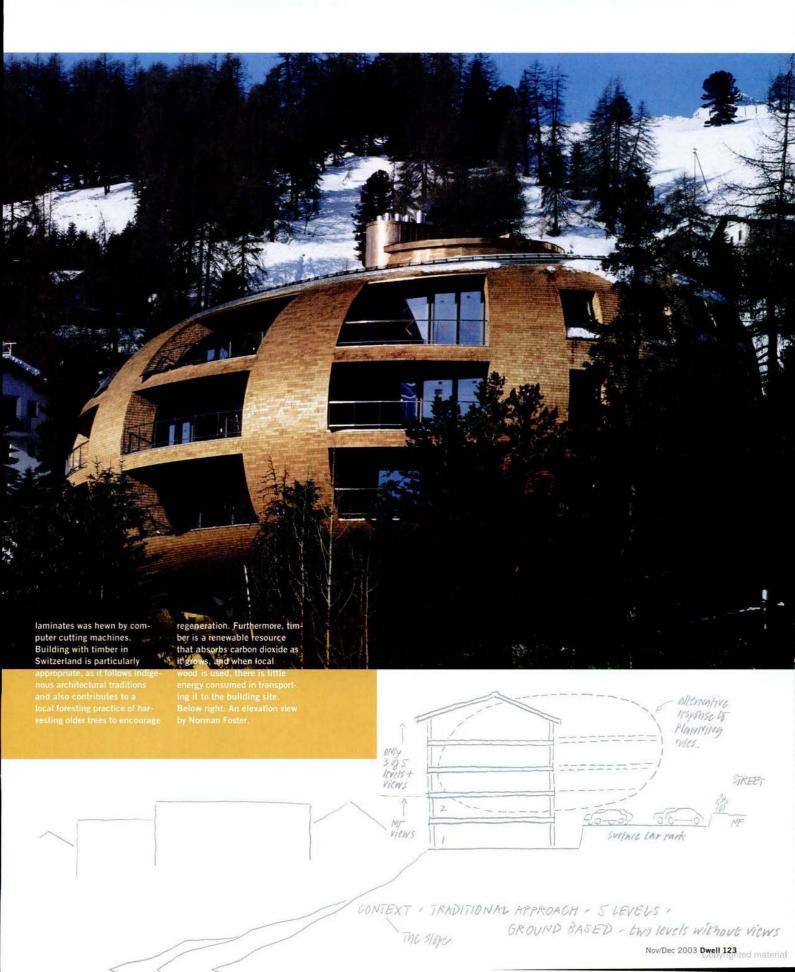
It comes as little surprise to discover that among the 13,000 skiers embracing this spirit each March is Foster and Partners' very own director, 68-year-old Lord Norman Foster, who obviously likes his athletic pursuits to be every bit as challenging as his buildings. Having purchased one of the seven apartments in Chesa Futura, he is at least guaranteed stunning surroundings in which to recover from his exertions, be they in the field of architecture or winter sports.

Lorenz Kraettli, who has been making shingles for nearly all of his 82 years, chose trees from the same altitude as the building to ensure they would be accustomed to similar climatic conditions. Gradually, the tiles, which should have a life span of up to 80 years, will respond to weather, changing color over time to appear as an organic part of the landscape. Below, a design sketch of the shingles by Norman Foster.





Unusual for such a modern building, the shell of Chesa Futura is entirely wooden. This facet of construction employed local tradition and timber, though the application was somewhat more high-tech than the shingle production—



# The Substance of Style

"Beauty appeals to us all," argues futurist Virginia Postrel. "Ignore it at your peril."



In her 1998 book, The Future and Its Enemies: The

Growing Conflict Over Creativity, Enterprise, and Progress, social critic and libertarian Virginia Postrel argued that our culture is increasingly defined by two competing entities, stasists and dynamists. The static vision for the world is regulated, stable, and black-and-white, in contrast to the dynamic one that Postrel espouses—a position (or, rather, positions) that embrace fluid categories of creativity, discovery, and competition. Though arguing against the rigid idea of a "one best way" in politics, business, culture, and technology, Postrel also unabashedly asserted that the future would be better served by those of the dynamic persuasion. Published at the near apex of the new economy, The Future and Its Enemies felt like an inspiring call to arms for the creative class. And then came the dot-com crash.

Five years later, in the wake of that crash, the war in Irag, and the definitively static Bush administration, that book almost seems a relic of another time. But Postrel's persuasive observations about the importance of creativity and decentralized thought processes, and the increasingly irrelevant notion of the "one best way," reemerge in her latest effort, The Substance of Style: How the Rise of Aesthetic Value Is Remaking Commerce, Culture, and Consciousness, a spot-on analysis of the role of aesthetics in contemporary culture. We may make light of the importance of a pretty face or the appeal of a shiny car, but we have also come to expect a previously inconceivable aesthetic standard in everything from the shop that serves our coffee to the casing that houses our computer. The democratization of design and the corresponding expectation of aesthetic quality is, Postrel argues, changing the way we live and work-and is reshaping contemporary society.

Dwell spoke with Postrel recently about what precipitated her shift in focus from the likes of Ralph Nader and Pat Buchanan to Michael Graves and Philippe Starck.

#### How did you make the leap from futurism to aesthetics?

When I was writing *The Future and Its Enemies*, I did a fair amount of reading about design: first from the perspective of design as another form of innovation and creativity, and second, about the limits of design—how far can you push it, what are the boundaries? Those two things led to my knowing more about the field. What led me to write the book was just noticing the trend. In fields



### Design

where function had been everything, style and design were becoming more and more important.

One reason there's this emphasis now on aesthetics is that people assume a high level of functionality. The competition in many categories is so intense on the traditional measures of quality that we're not talking about surface instead of substance, we're talking about surface in addition to substance. That's why I used the word "aesthetics" instead of "design" in the book title.

#### What carries through from The Future and Its Enemies to the new book?

A theme that is strong in both books is the idea of trying to get away from the notion of the "one best way." In Future, it's a very political context and I'm talking about the regulatory "one best way." In the new book, I'm talking about a more cultural, less political notion of the "one best way" and am trying to get away from the idea that aesthetics and design are a matter of defining the "right" way that things should look. We can still talk about better or worse designs, but it's not a matter of finding the Platonic form. Good design depends not just on universals but on particular differences of time, place, circumstance, and individual taste.

What was the biggest surprise in your exploration of style? Part of it was how big a trend it really is. Obviously, I thought there was something going on, but it just became more and more apparent. The other thing I knew-but didn't really know-was how important aesthetic applications are as a use for computer technology and fiber optics and high-tech products. It really is the killer app.

### How can designers capitalize on this aesthetic "trend"? Designers should stop denigrating the pleasure and meaning that their work provides and they should stop acting as though they were engineers. What people

who have aesthetic talent and training bring to the table is something that goes beyond the functional to simple pleasure. The fact that something looks and feels nice is

a source of value in and of itself.

Designers need to understand that there is a difference between basic research and manufacturing or applied engineering. A lot of the stuff that designers like and that gets awards is stuff that's not yet ready for the marketplace. It may be brilliant but it's like basic scientific research—it will be adapted, experimented with, refined, and changed before it's going to be the big hit. People need to be doing the way-out stuff, pushing the envelope, but they must also understand that [what they're creating] is not going into every Target store.

Perhaps because of that "stuff designers like," do you think that most people still think of design as something extra, something that can be tacked on at the end? Incrementally, people who might not articulate it have come to appreciate design. It's around us more and more.

Again, that emphasis on aesthetics manifests itself in >

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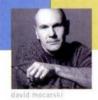


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many different tastes. And it's not what style is used, it's that style is used. The Substance of Style isn't about my taste, because one of the things that marks this aesthetic trend is a proliferation of many styles existing simultaneously and, in many cases, being mixed and matched.

### What has changed to bring that about? Are people more open to this kind of plurality?

The notion of what "good design" is has broken down. There is not the simple hierarchy there once was. Designers have a lot less ability to dictate what people will like. And compared to, say, the 1950s, there is much less of a connection between style and social hierarchy. There is still a connection between style and personal identity and affiliation—your style is probably a lot like your friends' style—but it's not like there is a high-class style and a low-class style. That reflects a lot of social changes and the growth of things like population, income, and education.

If you look at the source of the pluralism, there are a lot of different ones. Just from an economic point of view, there's more room for the plurality of style. If you add on top of that efficient distribution, more efficient marketing—people who don't live in big cities have access to things they wouldn't have had access to 20 years ago. They can find the things they like much more easily.

There's also a change in cultural tolerance. We're moving to a place where there's a lot more room for all these styles to coexist if people will exercise the social and political tolerance necessary to allow it to.

### Is there that room? Because everyone likes the idea of tolerance, but . . .

The flip side of people being interested in aesthetics is that there is more aesthetic conflict. Because there isn't one best way that everyone agrees on anymore—just think about office dress codes. The result is that there is more conflict even in a world where there's more tolerance. It's a strange paradox. People feel much freer to complain about things they don't like about aesthetic spillover, that it's a form of pollution.

In the end, taste just differs. One person likes modern, the other likes traditional, and they both hate looking at each other's house. To some degree, that has to be dealt with by having smaller subgroups—neighborhoods that are one style or the other. A lot of masterplan communities do address that, and they are slowly but increasingly recognizing that there are niches in the market that haven't been addressed yet, whether it's a [preference] for variety rather than homogeneity or for more unusual types of design.

I would like us to get away from the idea that aesthetic disagreements constitute pollution. I think a lot of the time the best way to deal with it is just to look away. People get used to things over time. But I have to admit that I could find examples of things that I don't want to look at either . . . I'm no different from anyone else in that respect!





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### The Future We Deserve

What the world needs now is the Turbo-Groomer 5.0, a sleek hunk of ordnance in the home-front war against unsightly body hair. On the Sharper Image website, the Groomer looks like one of those Deco ziggurats conjured up by the visionary urbanist Hugh Ferriss in *The Metropolis of Tomorrow*. The future—or, at least, the future of personal hygiene—is now: Brandish this baby at that wiry little friend peeking coquettishly from one nostril, and it's so long, Matto Grosso!

The Turbo-Groomer is brought to you by the Sharper Image, a retailer of pricey gadgets for the upscale technophile: fog-free shower mirrors, oral irrigators, and Bow-Lingual digital dog translators that turn "'woofs' into words!" High-tech housewares such as these are status symbols for early adopters, conspicuous evidence that their owners are keeping ahead of the Joneses: "Look at me!" they crow. "I'm beta-testing the future."

In the future present we live in, innovation can be an intellectual fashion statement, and the Sharper Image, "a leading source of new, innovative, high-quality products," is banking on it. In the site's "Letter from the Chairman," CEO Richard Thalheimer hopes you'll "share [his] enthusiasm for . . . innovative products" and for a website brimming with "innovative features." Now fill your shopping cart and proceed to checkout.

Consecrated to new beginnings, the United States is a country fired by utopian dreams and get-rich schemes, blissfully innocent of the burden of history that makes Old Europe (to use the Rumsfeldian term of art) so five

minutes ago. The modernist catchphrase "Make it new!" was the rallying cry of the American Century, with its ever-accelerating trends in avant-garde art, mass fashion, pop culture, and, most of all, new and improved consumer goods, doomed to the landfill by the market's binge-and-purge cycle of overproduction, hyperconsumption, and planned obsolescence. Under the banner of progress, inventors and engineers marched toward the tomorrow foretold by the Futurama exhibit at the 1939 New York World's Fair. Technotopia's inhabitants would go to work in cars like the Ford Nucleon, an atomic-age apparition powered by its own onboard nuclear reactor, and would live in dwellings like R. Buckminster Fuller's mass-produced Dymaxion House. And so on.

Today, we're living in the very technotopia they imagined. Here in the 21st century, a mystical date long synonymous with the future, innovation is all around us. Some of this innovation is profound—such as the radical new surgical procedure to correct short bowel syndrome, a potentially fatal condition in young children-while other innovations are pure whimsy, such as designer Marcel Wanders's Airborne Snotty Vases based on 3-D digital scans of the flying particles expelled by a human sneeze, or the extreme cuisine whipped up by Catalan chef Ferran Adrià, which includes delicacies like tempura of rose petals and essence of carrot air. No one really needs this stuff, but hey, it brightens the irony-impaired lives of overeducated bobos, and nobody gets hurt.

On the other hand, too much of what wraps itself in the mantle of innovation these days does hurt. Dumb design inflicts collateral damage on everything around it. Has anyone ever measured the cost, in lost time and ulceration, of user-unfriendly consumer electronics, encrusted with pointless functions and programmed by incomprehensible control panels? Is there an academic study under way, somewhere, measuring the psychological cost of the toxic runoff that is fouling our mental environment—the big-box outlets and chain stores that James Howard Kunstler calls "the geography of nowhere"? More literally, there is the environmental fallout of all those obsolete "innovations"-such as the Touchless Trashcan, whose "smart chip" senses when you want to open the lid and opens it for you-once they end up in the literal dustbin of history.

Still, there's hope. Some of the most visionary designers, engineers, and architects are creating truly innovative products that challenge the oxymoronic doctrine of "creative waste" that has governed our consumer culture since at least the late 1920s, when domestic theorist Christine Frederick minted the phrase. Not only are design and architecture starting to shoulder their environmental responsibilities, but popular design consciousness is at an all-time high. When—if—the greening of the marketplace intersects with our growing appetite for cool stuff that is also user- and environmentally friendly, then and only then will we get the future we deserve.

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### Hunting (for) High and Low

In the grand old world of words, "high-tech" and "low-tech" are mere children—according to *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, they were coined in 1973 and 1981, respectively. But the accelerated development of technology has made these terms prematurely adolescent. They are moody and changeable. Whereas high-tech originally connoted an industrial,

sophisticated look and low-tech meant technologically unsophisticated, high-tech today sometimes acts humble, while low-tech can be lofty. What does terminology's palm reader see in their life lines? To respond to this quandary, Dwell asked four architects to elucidate the terms' current status. The question: What do high-tech and low-tech mean for you and your work?



Above: The Mobile Dwelling Unit, unveiled last summer in Minneapolis, Minnesota, will spend the year touring the U.S.

Right: The bedroom, study, and dining areas slide in and out of the shipping-container body for easy transport.



### LOT-EK

Architect Giuseppe Lignano founded LOT-EK in 1993 with Ada Tolla. The LOT-EK partners—both of whom trained in Naples, Italy, and New York City—describe their work as, among other things, "an ongoing investigation into 'artificial nature,'" in which prefabricated objects and technologies become raw materials. Physical manifestations of this include the Mobile Dwelling Unit, a shipping container—turned—house that can move around easily via mankind's vast network of barges, trucks, and container cranes.

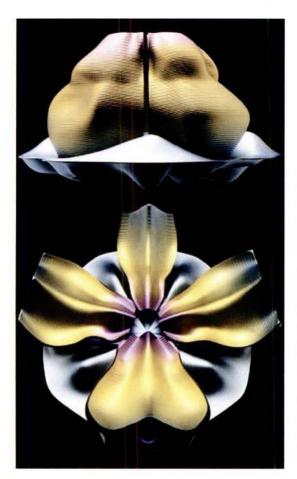
"Low-tech" and "high-tech" have traditional definitions. High-tech was coined to describe such architecture as the Pompidou Center in Paris, for example, which displayed detailed technology on the outside, for an advanced and futuristic look. Low-tech became the reaction. The idea, typical of the postmodern 1980s, was to build the opposite of high-tech, to start criticizing technology. Do you go back to the horse and the candle? There was that romance in low-tech, entwined with a different vision of the future.

We called our office LOT-EK to embrace a future in which technology doesn't have a fascist effect of coming in and wiping out everything that was there before. It's a future more accepting of diversity, of history, of layering things. The name LOT-EK is more about low and tech than low-tech. The low of everything: banal and nondescript stuff that nevertheless coexists with the desire for technology we constantly feed.

The way we spell LOT-EK expresses this coexistence. The spelling could appear like a computer programming command, where things are broken and abbreviated in weird

ways, dashes and slashes all over the place. Ada and I were in Jamaica, and saw people making amazing shelters for themselves, using things that they found lying on the beach. We picked up a dictionary of local patois there, and saw how words were broken up in unexpected ways. The fact that a computer language looks so similar to a patois was very interesting to us—also very telling of how we were seeing the world and still see it.

The spontaneity of "lowest" level technology—the intelligence behind a beach shack in Jamaica—is in a very real way akin to the thought behind a cutting-edge computer chip . . . the raw intelligence where a human being can have a vision and say, I'm going to make this, now, out of what. Architecture and all the other activities are basically about ingenuity, and we're inspired by these parallels.







Machined lines delineate the contours of Lynn's forms. Far left: Renderings show the flowerlike Alessi Tea and Coffee Piazza 2000, made with a technology invented for stealth aircraft in which titanium "super-plastic" is heated to 900 degrees Fahrenheit. Above and left: In a Stockholm showroom interior, CNC-milled walls undulate with precision.

### Greg Lynn FORM

Architect and theorist Greg Lynn relocated his architectural practice, Greg Lynn FORM, from Hoboken, New Jersey, to Venice, California, in 1998, to deepen the office's creative involvement with "techniques germane to the aeronautic, automobile, and film industries." Never shying away from the hypothetical, his work has opened radical possibilites for computer-designed architecture.

For me, the most high-tech frontier is genetics—the life sciences as opposed to the mechanical sciences. Genetics makes our understanding of nature more sophisticated and exciting than the mechanical sciences, which strike me as being low-tech today.

Three years ago, I acquired a very large computer numerically controlled (CNC) mill in my office. It is on our computer network so that we can design a complex surface and

then translate its shape into a three-dimensional path that the machine will follow as it shapes materials like wood, foam, plastic, and aluminum. In our designs, we always leave the grooves that result from the machine's path on the surfaces so that instead of a smooth finish, you see the pattern followed by the tool.

The fabrication and manufacturing we do in our office combines the high-tech and the low-tech. Our work today is an interesting mixture of architecture, art, and industrial design projects. I collaborate with painters and sculptors because they know I can make large-scale objects—they think of me like a mechanic. But in the architecture realm, our tooling makes for a high-tech, sensuous design, which is nice.

There's an architect's rap these days about

regaining control of fabrication and production by learning technologies like that which we have in our office. But I can say firsthand, I find it scary. As the designers, we are the best people to make prototypes and set the tool paths for large-object manufacturing, so we have to take over more and more of the design and construction process. This means that we are liable for it, and that when people interpret our work, we are implicated not just in the design but in the production.

Personally, I am not interested in becoming a contractor or developer unless I have to. Sometimes I don't have a choice, because if I don't prototype the thing and show someone how to do it, they won't be able to make it. But once I can step out of the noise, dust, and logistics of manufacturing, I am happy to do so.

### **Innovations 101**





Models of Bangkok's new airport, scheduled to open this year, show the complexity of the roof, which ventilates the vast

interior. The network of materials and openings regulates transmission of energy from outside to inside and vice versa.

### Werner Sobek

Trained as both an architect and an engineer, Werner Sobek practices both trades at his Stuttgart, Germany-based structural engineering and design consultancy. Sobek is devoted to ecology and specializes in finding ways to build unprecedented structures, such as massive, load-bearing stretches of glass. Among his best-known works are the Sony Center in Berlin's Potsdamer Platz and the new Bangkok airport.

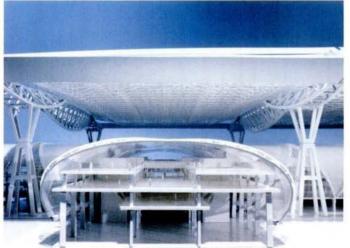
I think we need to find replacements for the terms "low-tech" and "high-tech," because they have negative and positive connotations, respectively, that aren't justified by the facts. It might be most effective to talk about materials or systems needing little energy for their construction and maintenance (so-called low-tech solutions), on the one hand, and about materials or systems needing a high amount of energy for their construction and maintenance (so-called high-tech solutions), on the other.

The storage of freely available heat or cold in water or clay walls for use at a later time is certainly a low-tech solution—but nevertheless ecologically very sound. A counterexample would be the use of composite materials: They are high-tech since they are so often complicated to produce. As is often true, the low-tech solution is ecologically more sustainable: Composite materials, for example, are hard to recycle, whereas noncomposites can recycle completely.

In our projects we always strive to find a solution that allows minimal use of natural resources and highest comfort to the user at

the same time, in accordance with the motto "The best is always simple, but the simple is not necessarily best." We often find sustainable solutions that are fundamentally simple—though complex structural systems are needed to build them. For example, in the new Bangkok airport, the thin, 40-meter-high roof contains louvers that protect from the sun and rain.

With houses, where the requirements change with the resident, modular construction facilitates recycling. In our house, named R128, the 20 tons of glass, 12 tons of steel, as well as the remaining materials (wood, copper, and aluminum) can be completely separated from each other and reused—should a future owner ever wish to get rid of it.



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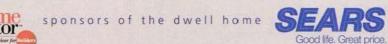
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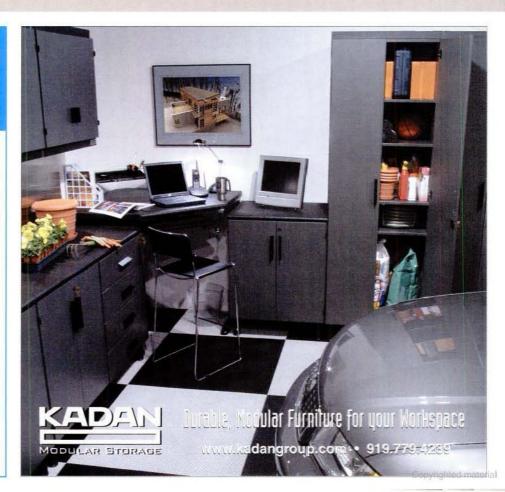
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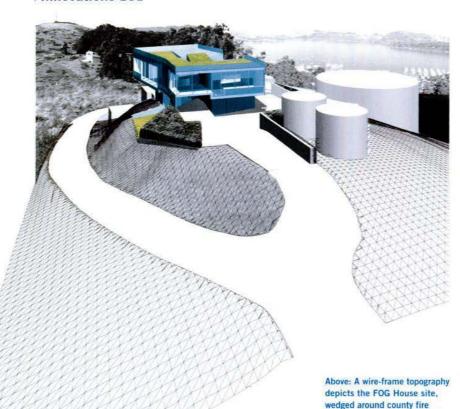








#### Innovations 101







Top: The house contains an empty core, which regularly fills with fog, obscuring views between rooms. Above: From

the living room, replete with a photomontaged Kjaerholm chair, a ramp leads over the "fog void" into the dining area.

### IwamotoScott Architecture

Lisa Iwamoto and Craig Scott formed IS.Ar, or IwamotoScott Architecture, in 1998. Based in Berkeley, California, IS.Ar is emerging with numerous commissions, specializing in complex computer fabrication. Their first residential commission in the San Francisco Bay Area, the FOG House, is planned for a site overlooking the Marin Headlands, a wind-swept mountainous outcrop northwest of the Golden Gate Bridge, where fog rolls in every morning and evening for much of the year. IS.Ar's design interacts with the fog: A curvaceous central courtyard pulls it into the house's core using specific geometries informed by view angles, topography, and prevailing winds.

We think of high-tech and low-tech as the creative potentials of technology, and we don't place a value judgment on their difference. While high-tech implies something rarefied and specialized, and low-tech something common and everyday, it's actually

not easy to separate the two in practice. The building industry is at another fascinating moment where high and low technologies are merging. For instance, we see smart materials (from medical and aerospace industries) and digital manufacturing being combined with otherwise traditional means of construction.

department water tanks and overlooking Sausalito, CA.

Ten years ago, this question would have gotten a very different answer. In design schools, computers were just being incorporated in a meaningful way. Now, they're seen as indispensable. What is exciting for us is harnessing new technologies, computers in particular, to rethink architecture and heighten the familiar. Rendering programs can readily capture ephemeral phenomena, like fog or changing patterns of light. Digital production techniques allow us to speculate on complex variables like the changing cones of vision from different positions in a space.

With the FOG House, we attempted to

defamiliarize the familiar. The client wanted to further take in the elements around his site through a house that would be like "one story of a glass skyscraper." The FOG House seeks to sample this familiar modernist archetype—now produced through somewhat low-tech construction means—and allow the site's dynamic weather, views, and topography to inflect and invade the all-too-familiar image and spatiality of the "glass house."

While low-tech and high-tech coexisted in the design process—we made traditional sketches and cardboard studies alongside laser-cut and stereolithographic models—they also will in the building's realization, with a basic curtain wall wrapping the digitally formed curving artificial topography in the house's core. The FOG House embodies notions of the strategically built cultural and physical hybrid, a "difficult whole" in which subtle transformations of the commonplace are not so uncommon.

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### Beyond Pong

Growing up in the technology-obsessed '80s, my early memories are of my dad swearing at various new innovations: the bulky top-loading VHS video recorder that wouldn't record, the Apple IIc that angrily spat out floppy disks. In lieu of Atari, we had Odyssey, a Canadian system that caused as many headaches as it did victories in such cleverly titled games as "Hockey" and "Ski." Times change, and today new gadgets, products, and electronic devices are decidedly more accessible to the tech-savvy masses. We've assembled some of the latest innovations for your perusal. Will they become modern necessities or fade into obscurity? Only time will tell.

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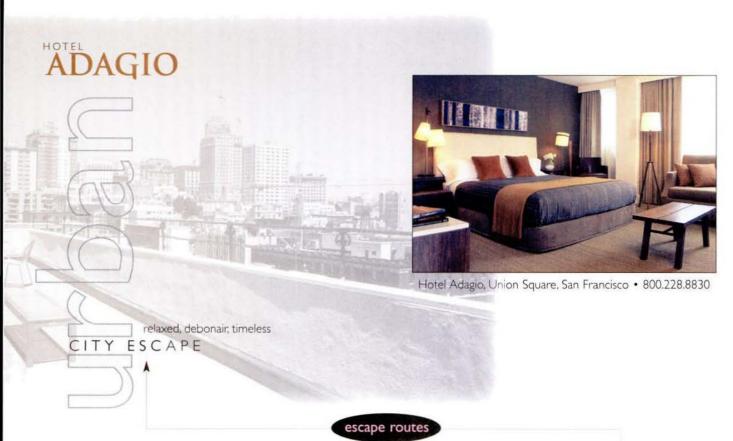
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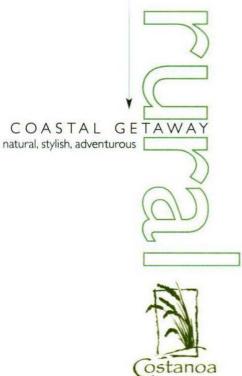
### Asimo Humanoid Robot

We all saw A.I. and we all fell asleep. Honda has picked up where that bloated Spielbergian attempt at Kubrick left off, developing a humanoid robot that can climb stairs, do simple chores, and maybe someday tackle dangerous tasks like fighting fires. Perhaps it will even learn to love. world.honda.com/ASIMO





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### **Innovations 101**



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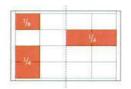
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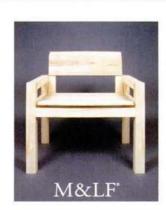
natural blue-gray soapstone panels on the Komba (detail above).

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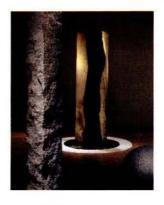
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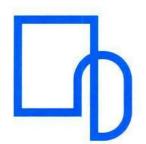
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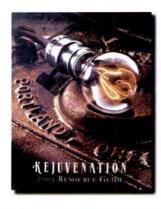
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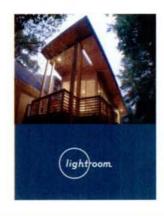


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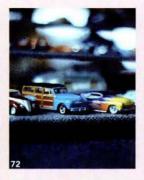
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Final design model, Marqués de Riscal Winery and Hotel @ Gehry Partners, LLP, photo by Whit Preston



### **Happily Ever After**



The Petrarca/Cross house sits on the edge of a forest, on steeply sloping land that leads to a rolling creek below. Friends and family helped with every stage of construction, keeping the budget balanced.

As they embarked on new love and a new life together, it was only fitting that everything would come together in the form of a house for Vincent Petrarca and Heather Cross. Not long after getting engaged, the couple purchased a wooded lot overlooking a gently rolling creek in Raleigh, North Carolina. They broke ground on July 4, 2000, giving them just under four months to build before their scheduled wedding date of October 28. "We knew we wanted to get married in the house," Petrarca says, "but we also knew we'd be racing against the clock because we'd already sent out the wedding invitations and we had to have a roof just in case it rained."

Every good story needs some drama and new house construction provides plenty of it, including, in this case, a 16-ton dump truck filled with earth tipping over on the first day of building. "Heather kept asking me if I was sure we could do this," Petrarca says of the early days of the undertaking, "and I, being the architect dreamer, replied, 'Of course!' But staring at this huge yellow truck laying on its side, I was thinking, Uh, oh, can we do this?!"

Undeterred, the pair worked nights and weekends through the summer and fall right up to their big day, all the while maintaining their day jobs. Just three days before the wedding, the frantic pace reached its peak as the couple struggled to build a bridge from the solid ground to the elevated house. "It was a lot of fun," Petrarca says without a trace of sarcasm.

In the end, persistence paid off: On October 28, the sun was shining and the house was ready (at least fully framed with a roof), and the wedding took place as planned in the nearly completed dream home. "It was a beautiful day," the couple stresses. "But my mom wasn't too happy," Petrarca explains, "because she got sawdust on her dress."

Three years later, Cross and Petrarca, like many a married couple, still devote many of their weekends to home improvements—"We took a week off after the wedding for our honeymoon and then got right back into it," Cross says—but the two now rest easy in the house where their life together began, destined to live happily ever after.





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